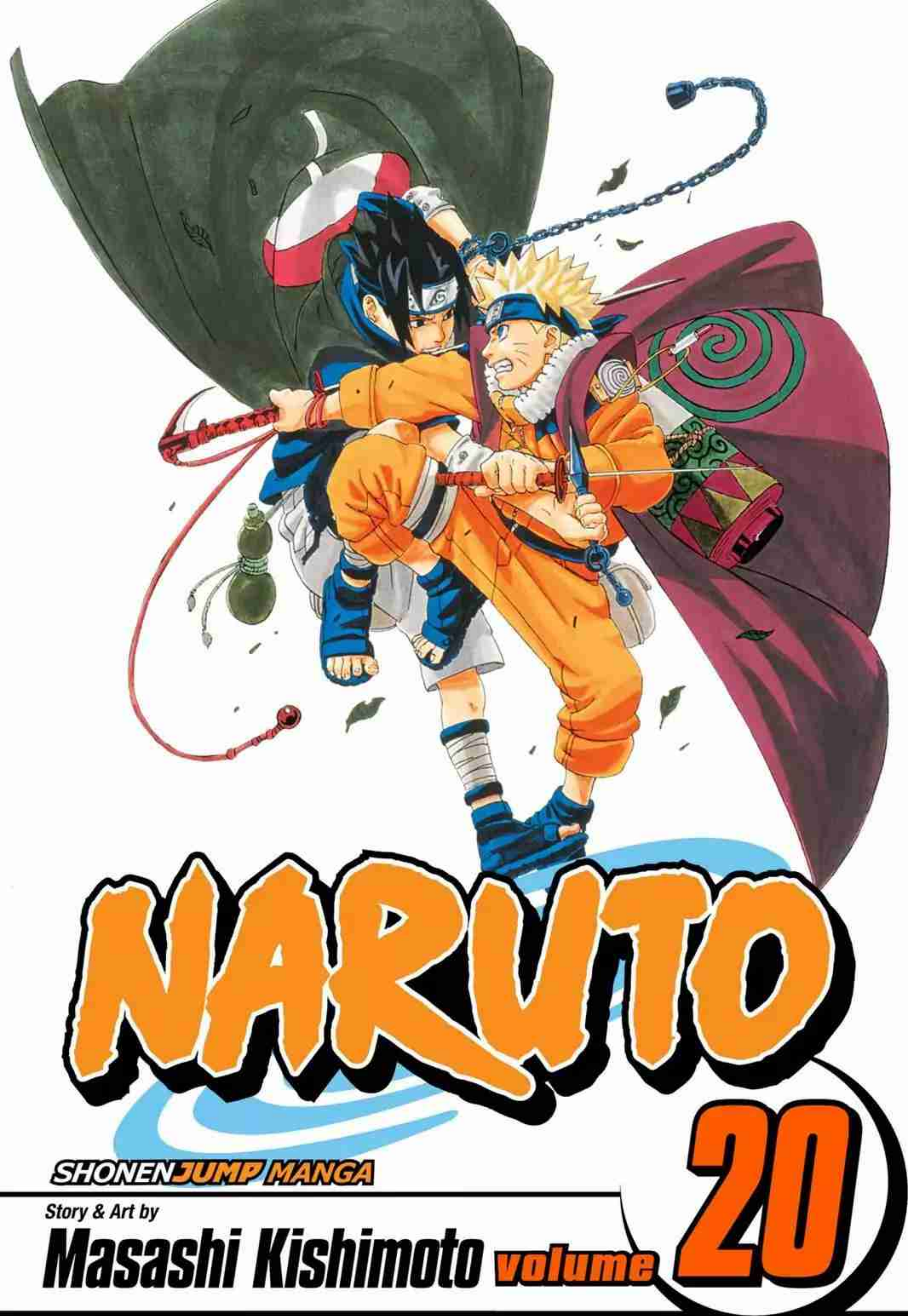
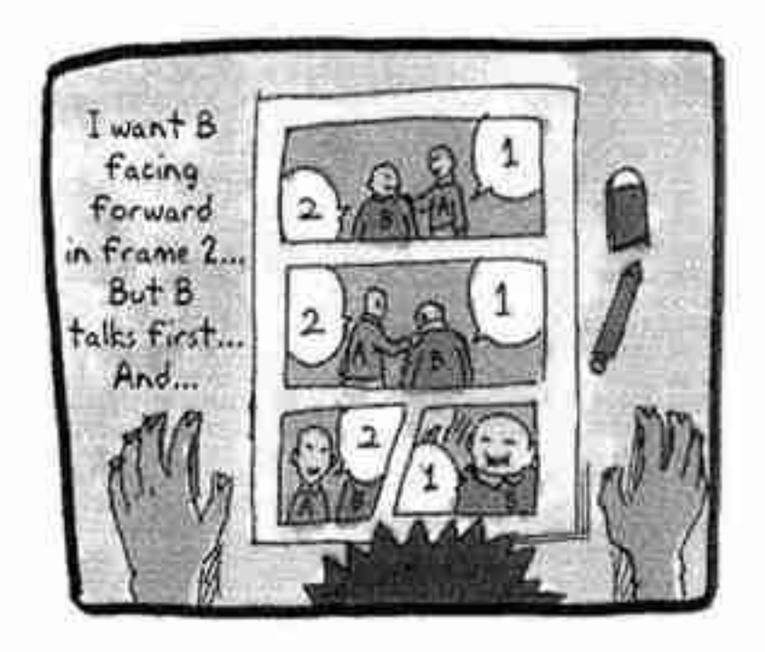

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 20



岸本斉史

I've recently been feeling the limits of expression in manga. With manga's particular style of reading from top right to bottom left, the order of dialogue severely limits the angle of the camera... Isn't there another way...?

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2003*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 20
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation & English Adaptation/Joe Yamazaki
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Annaliese Christman
Design/Yvonne Cai
Editor/Joel Enos

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

ratings.viz.com

www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO

VOL. 20
NARUTO
VS.
SASUKE

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sasuke
サスケ

Naruto
ナルト

Sakura
サクラ

The Sound Ninja Four

Might Guy

Kakashi

Rock Lee

Jiraiya

The Story So Far...

Twelve years ago a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to be a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his teammates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto and company take on the Chûnin Selection Exams but suffer a sudden attack from Orochimaru in the Forest of Death. Orochimaru leaves a curse mark on Sasuke's body and vanishes, only to return during the Exams to launch *Operation Destroy Konoha!*

While Naruto battles Gaara, the Third Hokage falls to Orochimaru. But Konohagakure is saved and Jiraiya and Naruto set out to hunt down the future Fifth Hokage, Tsunade. On the way, they encounter Itachi, Sasuke's demented older brother. And Tsunade has a strange encounter with Orochimaru, resulting in a battle that ends in deadlock!

NARUTO

VOL. 20
NARUTO VS. SASUKE

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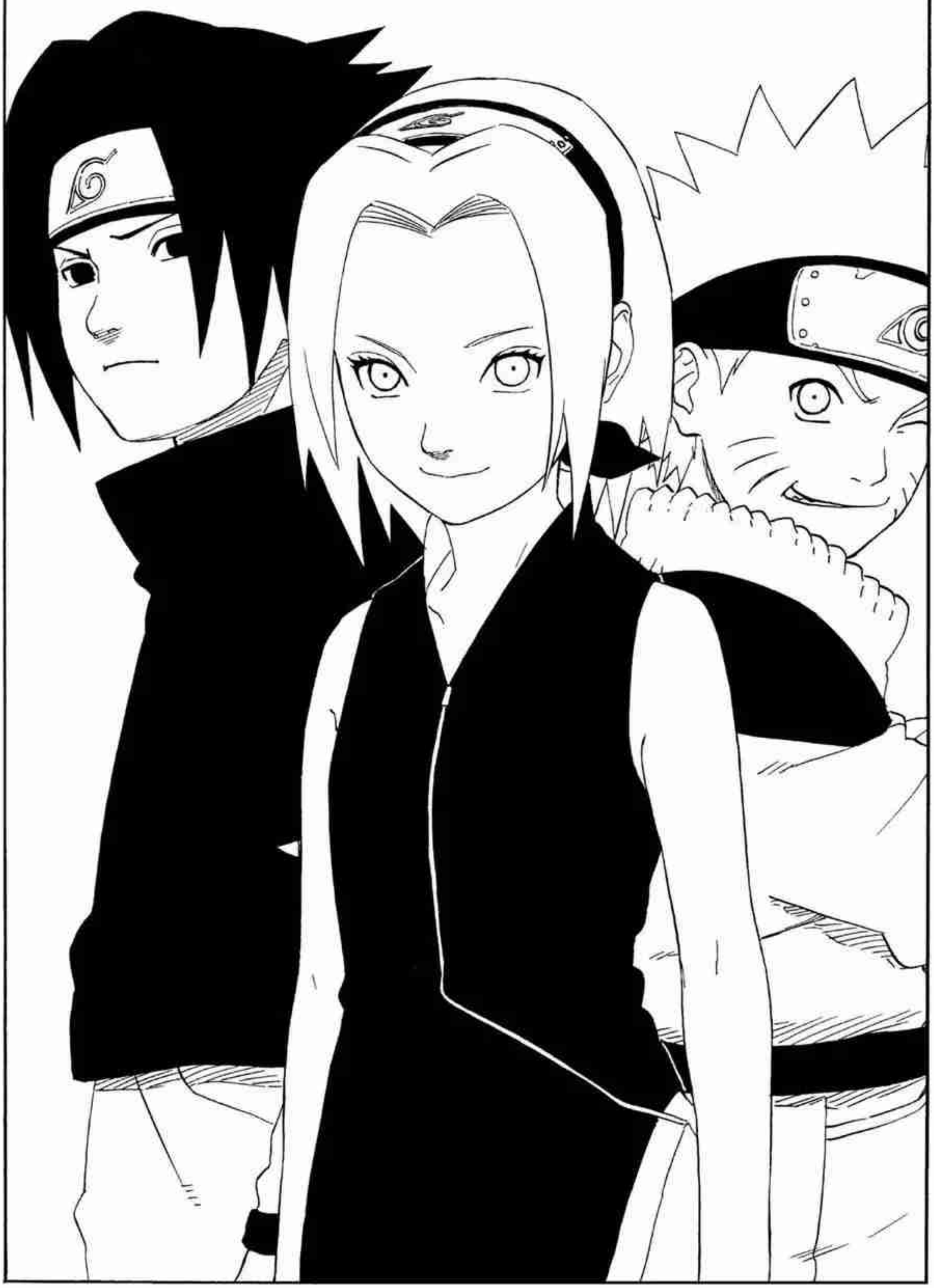
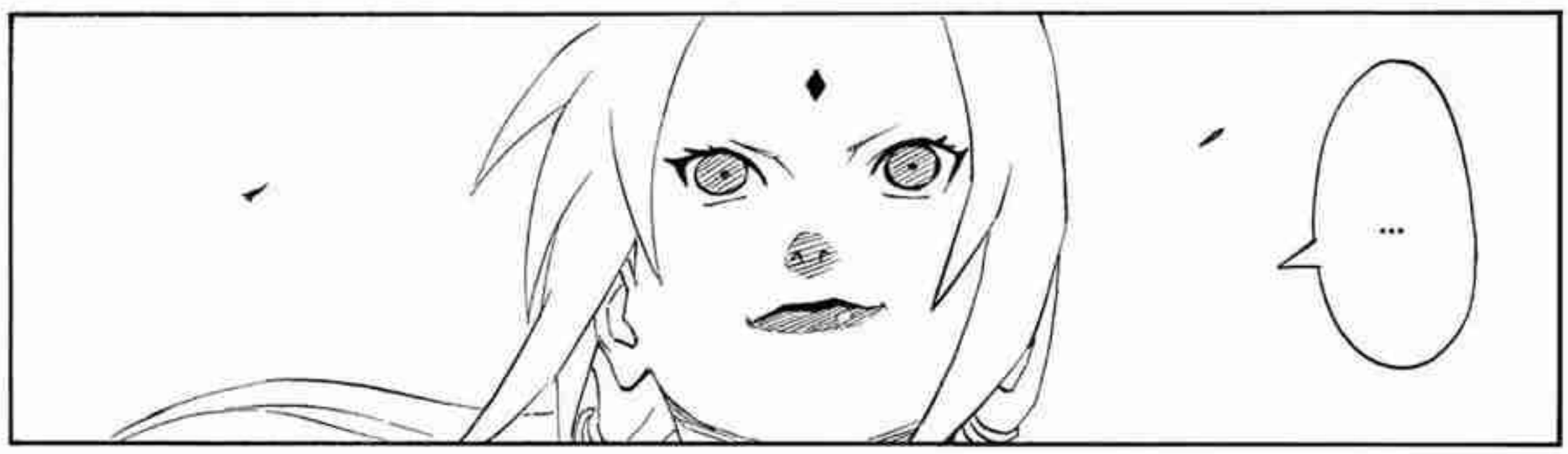
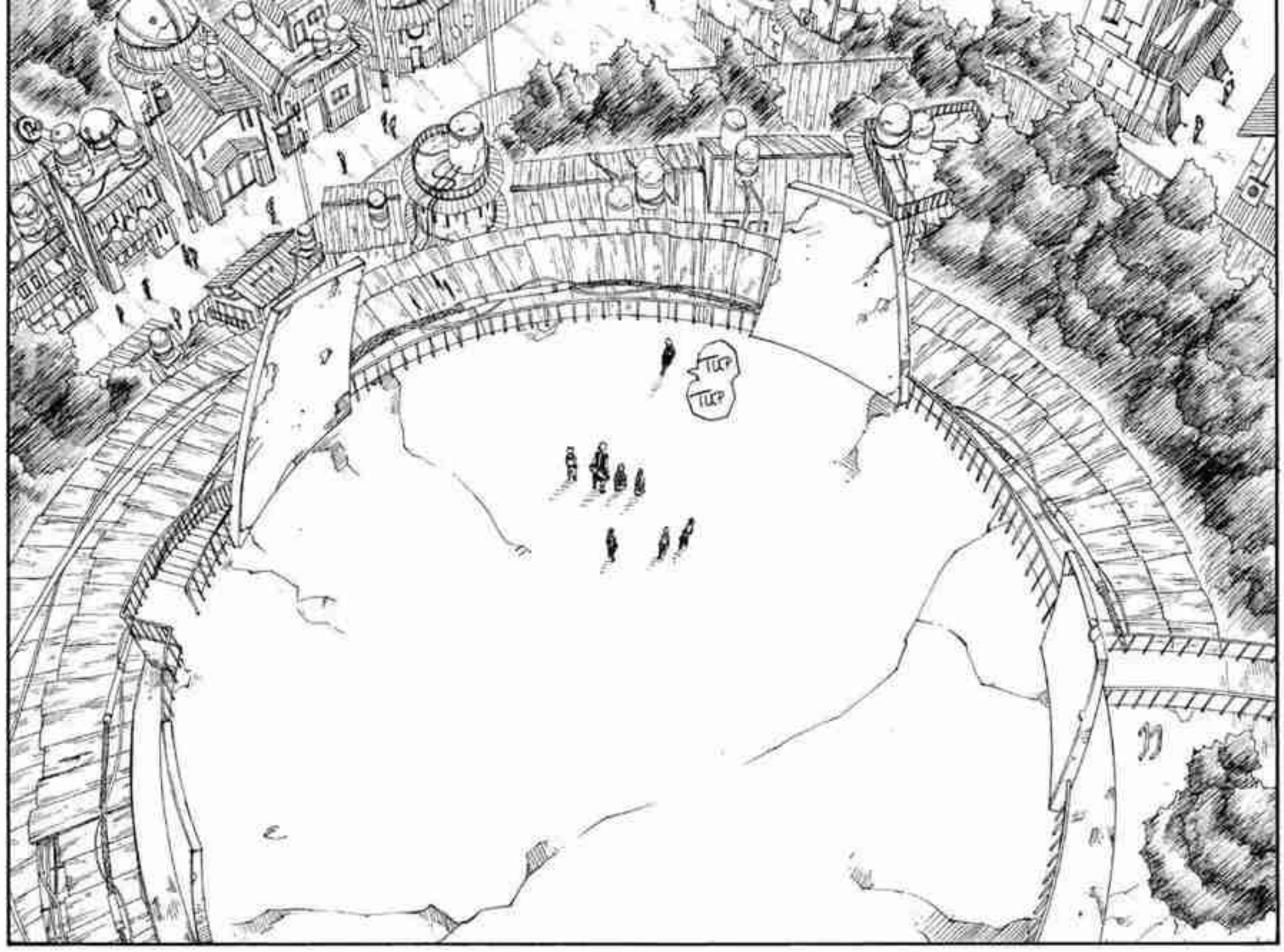
Number 172: The Return



KONOHA'S CHANGED.





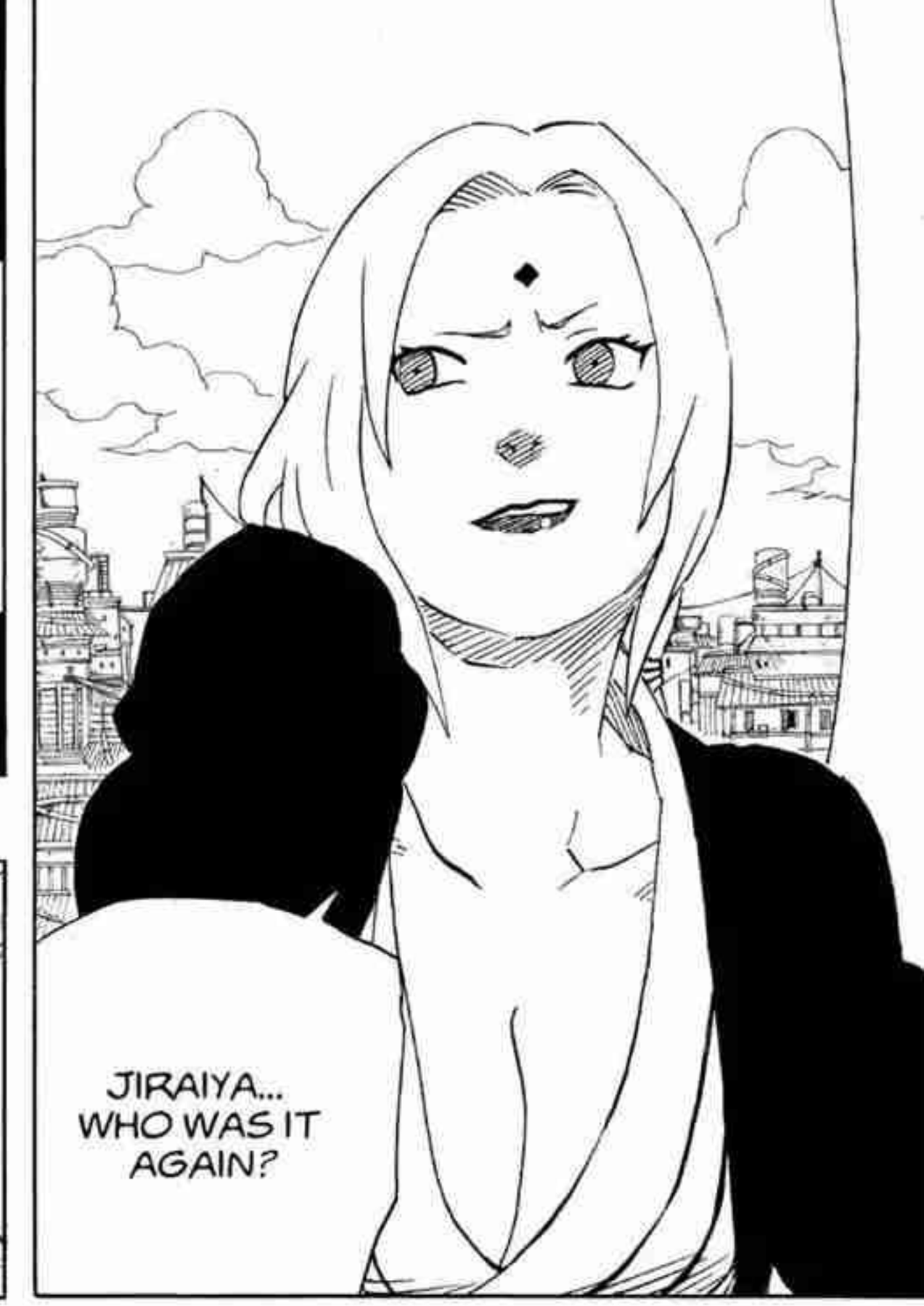
...THIS FROM THE GUY WHO WAS JUST POISONED?

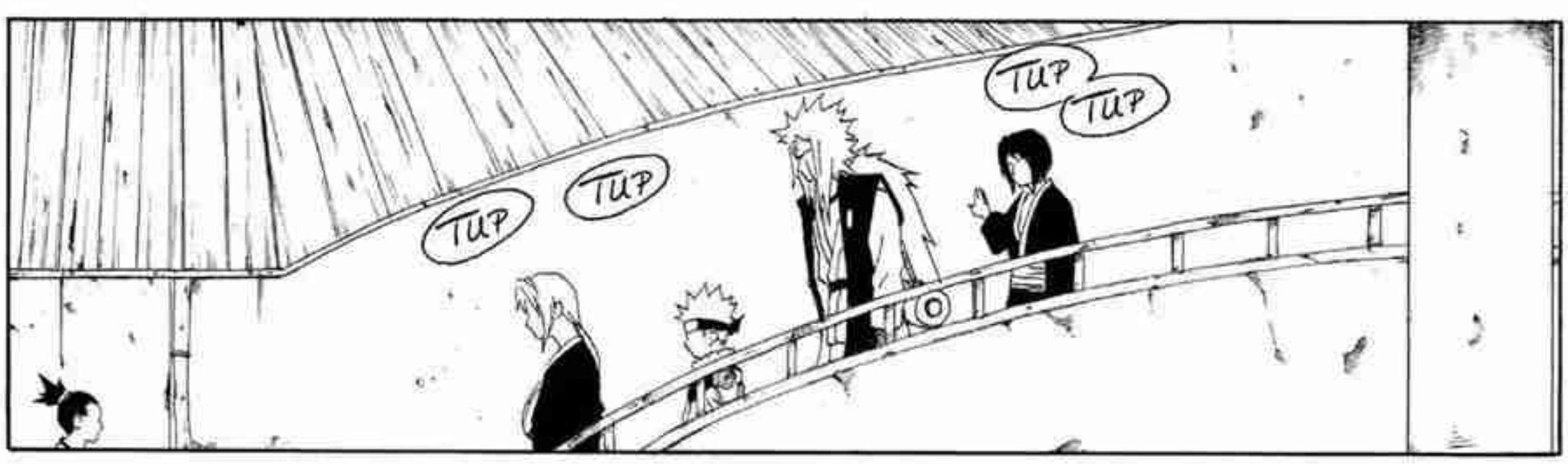
ALL IT TOOK WAS A FEW WORDS FROM THIS GOOD-LOOKING MUG OF MINE!
WAHA-HAHA!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TALKED HER INTO IT...

TSUNADE'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO FIRST!
HOLD ON A SECOND!!
WAP

YES, MILADY!
...AND HOLD A CELEBRATION FOR HER APPOINTMENT.
WE MUST CALL OUR DAIMYO IMMEDIATELY...
GENMA, AOBA... RELAY THIS TO REST OF THE VILLAGERS...

IT'S KAKASHI AND THAT UCHIHA KID...
AND GUY'S PUPIL, LEE.
I TOLD YOU ON THE WAY BACK!


JIRAIYA... WHO WAS IT AGAIN?


TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP

TUP
TUP
ISN'T THAT NARUTO...?
HEY!

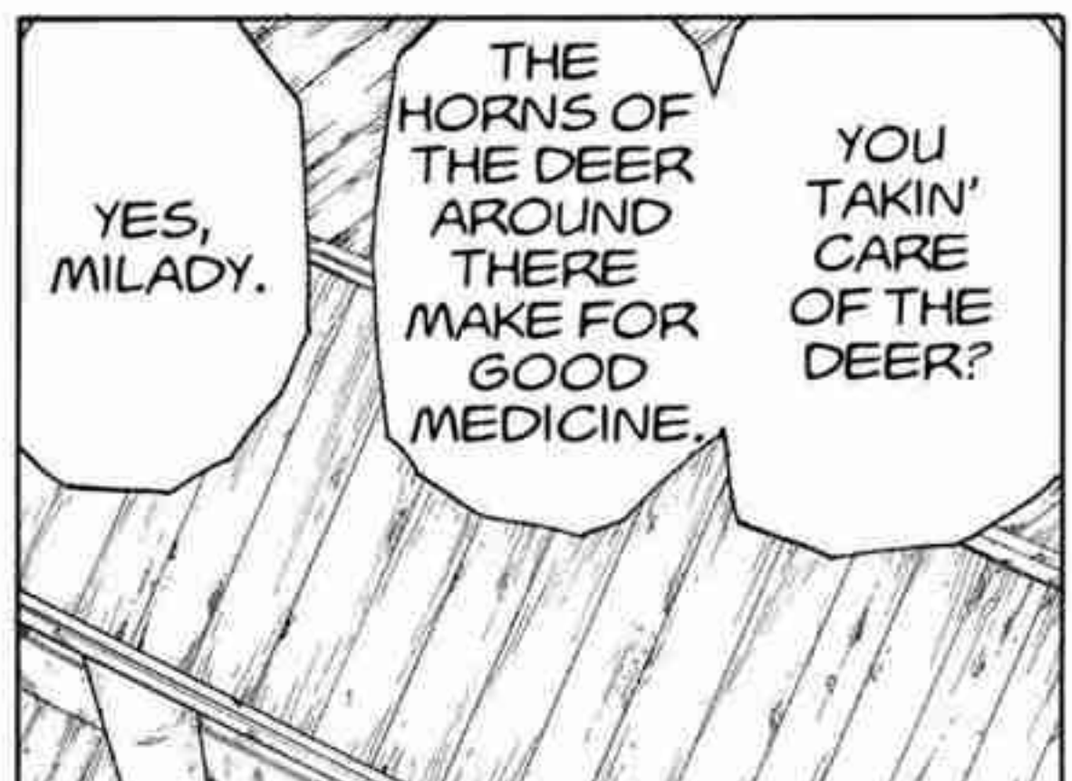
ACTUALLY, THINGS GOT A LITTLE COMPLICATED.

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE, NARUTO?
FWP
UM, ALL THAT'S DOWN THERE IS THE NINJA REGISTRY ROOM, RIGHT?
ME? WHAT ARE *YOU* DOIN' HERE?

WHAT D'YOU MEAN?
?

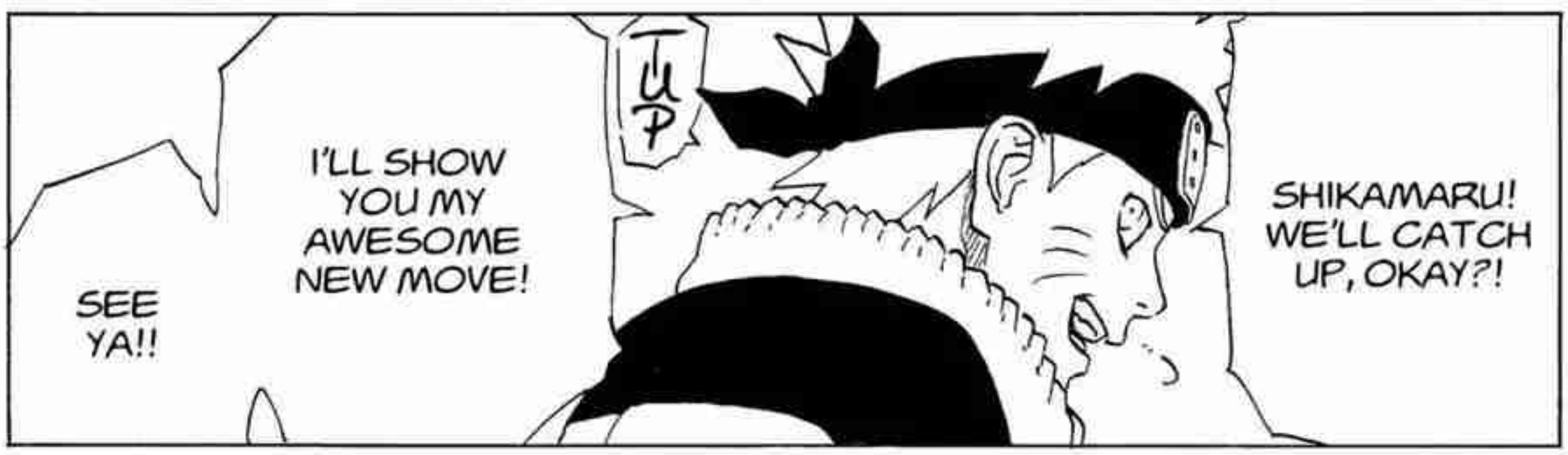
HEY! YOU'RE NARA, ALL GROWN UP?!
AND... IS THAT *YOUR* KID?!
I-IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
TSUNADE. JIRAIYA.

!
PSST PSST
NARUTO, WHO'S THIS BOSSY LITTLE GIRL?


YES, MILADY.
THE HORNS OF THE DEER AROUND THERE MAKE FOR GOOD MEDICINE.
YOU TAKIN' CARE OF THE DEER?

SHE'S NOT A GIRL! SHE'S IN HER FIFTIES!

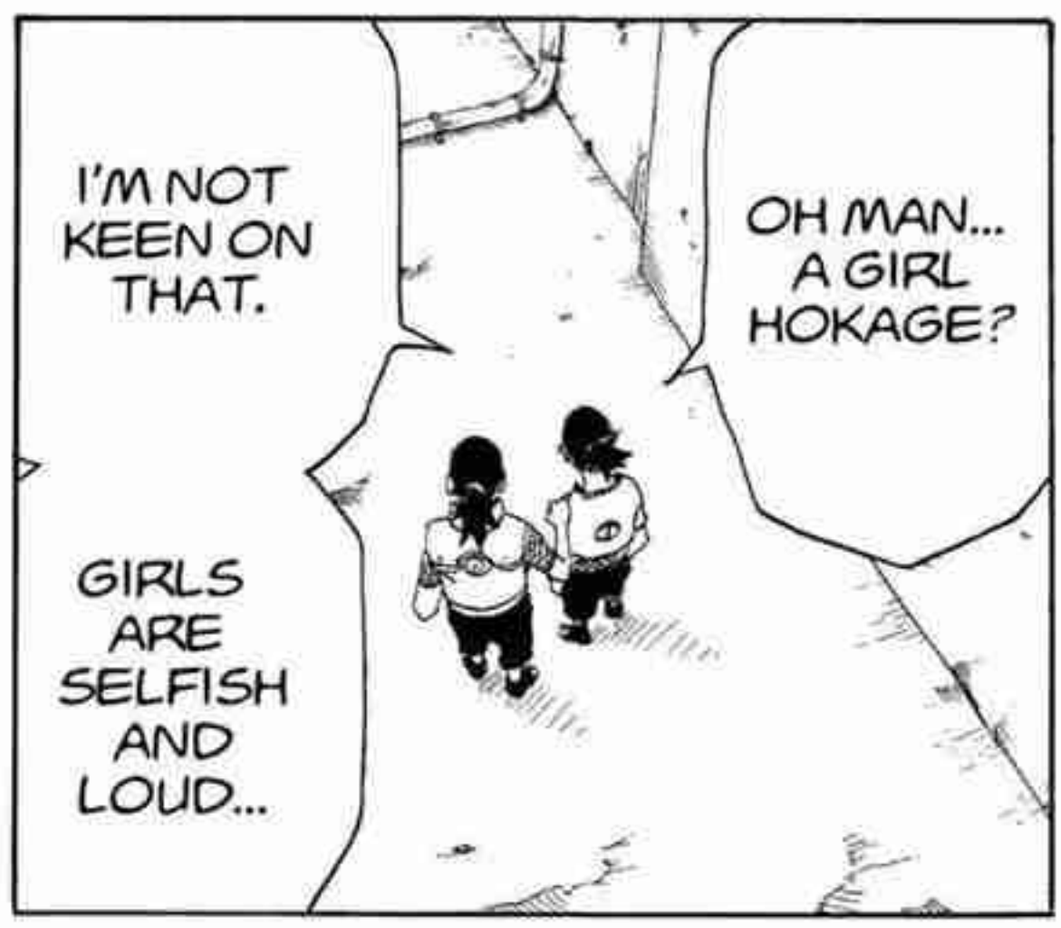
TSUNADE IS THE NEW HOKAGE!



...AND THE ONLY KUNOICHI IN THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA.
SHE'S... THE MOST POWERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ALIVE...
SLOSH
SHIKA-MARU.

WHO IS SHE?
THAT LADY'S GONNA BE THE FIFTH HOKAGE?

I CAN'T TELL WHETHER THEY'RE REALLY FRIENDS OR NOT...
THEY ACT ALL UNINTER-ESTED, BUT THEN THEY'RE ALL CLIQUEY.

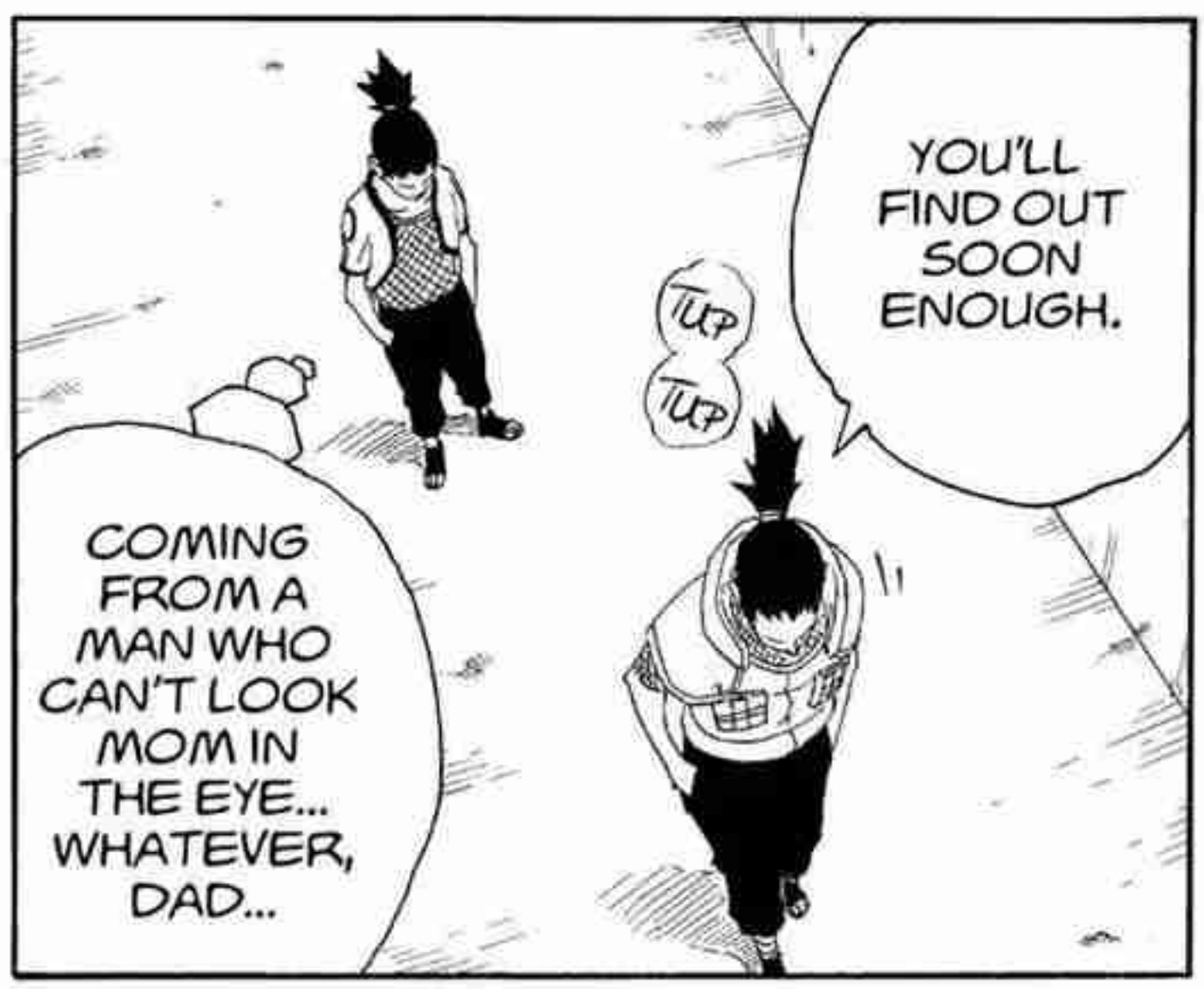

I'M NOT KEEN ON THAT.
OH MAN... A GIRL HOKAGE?
GIRLS ARE SELFISH AND LOUD...

...

GIRLS ARE JUST TROUBLE...
AND THEY ALWAYS THINK THEY'RE IN CONTROL.

WITHOUT WOMEN, MEN GO TO RUIN.

SHIKAMARU... WITHOUT WOMEN, MEN CAN'T BE BORN.



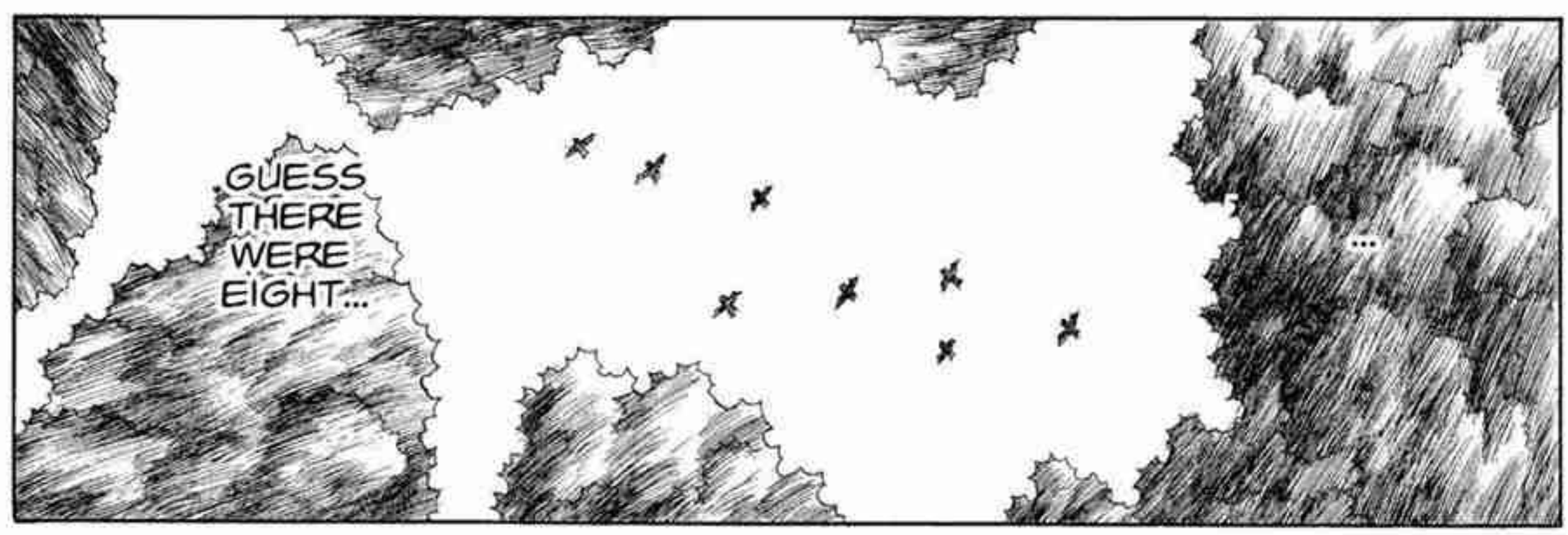
READ THIS WAY
1
2
3
2
2
3

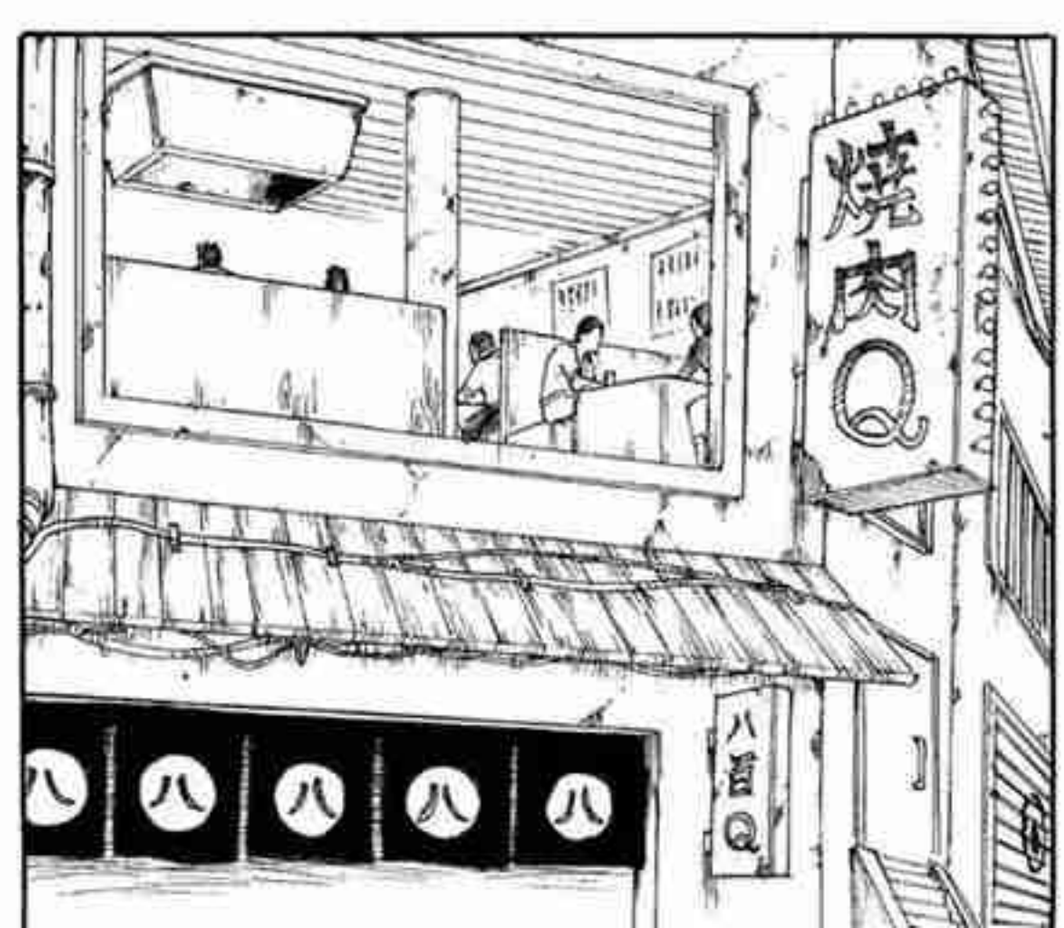
WWW
KSSSH
...SEVEN BIRDS...
FIFTY METERS FROM STICK TWO...

AND SHE'S GONNA BE THE FIFTH HOKAGE! WANNA GO WATCH?!

NEJI! TSUNADE'S BACK!

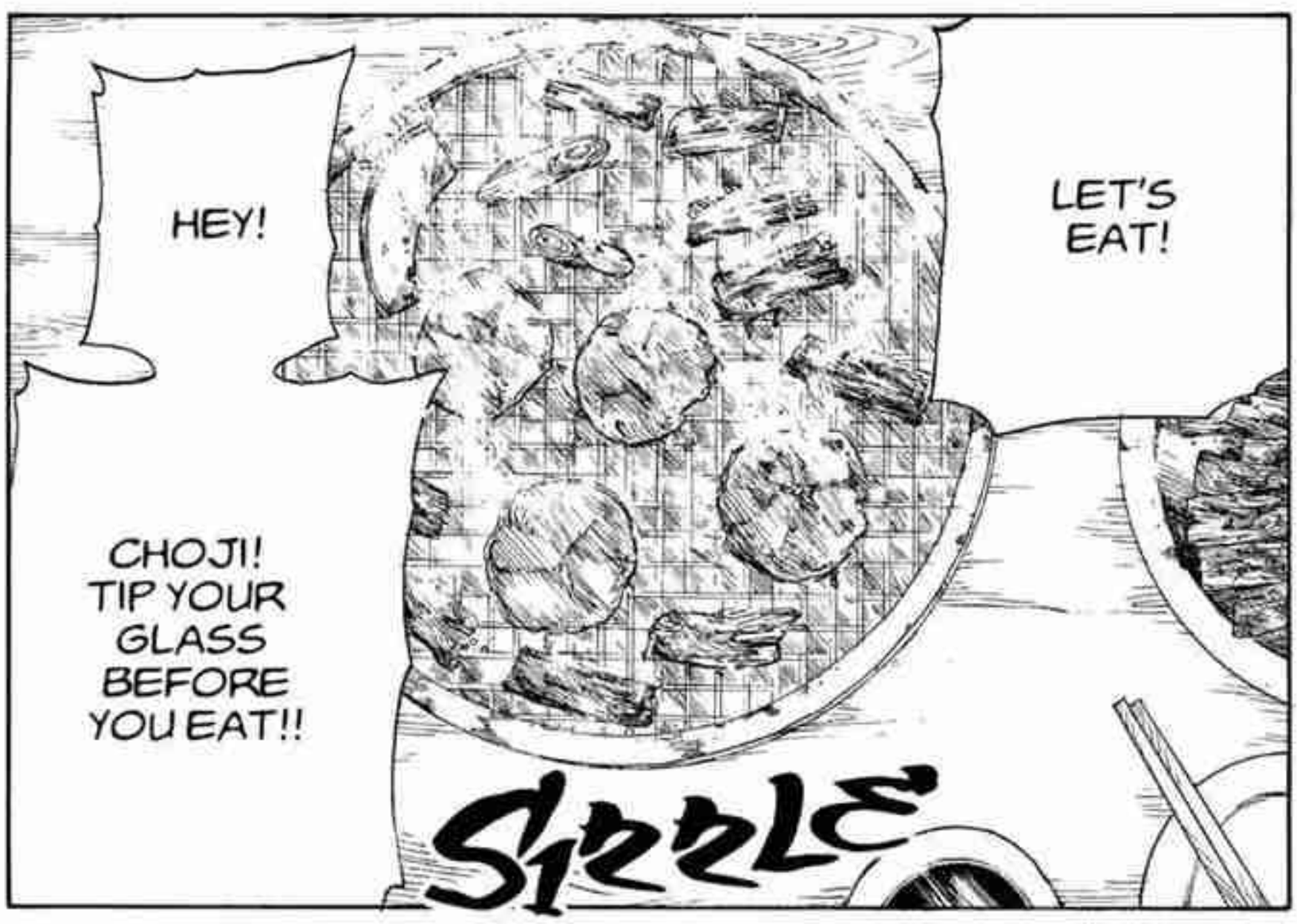
ITS REALLY TSUNADE!!

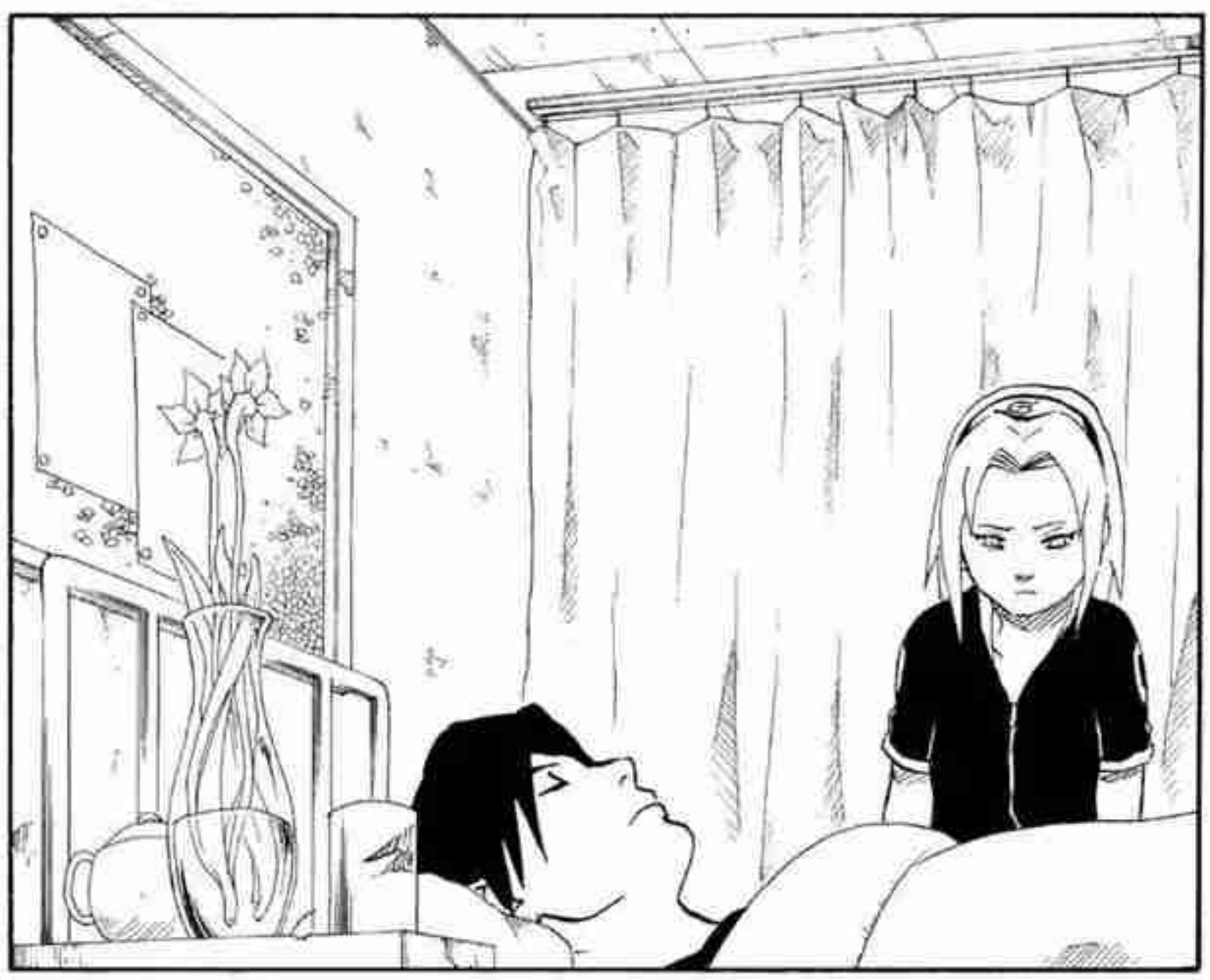


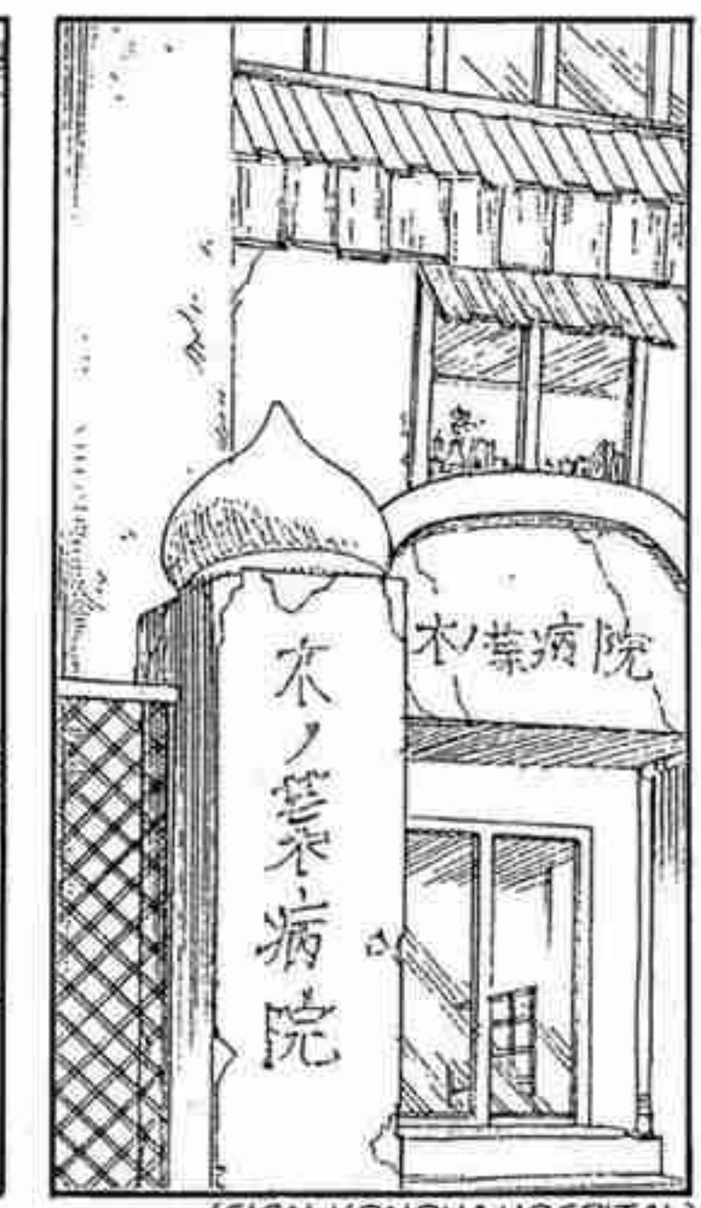


STOP LAUGHING.

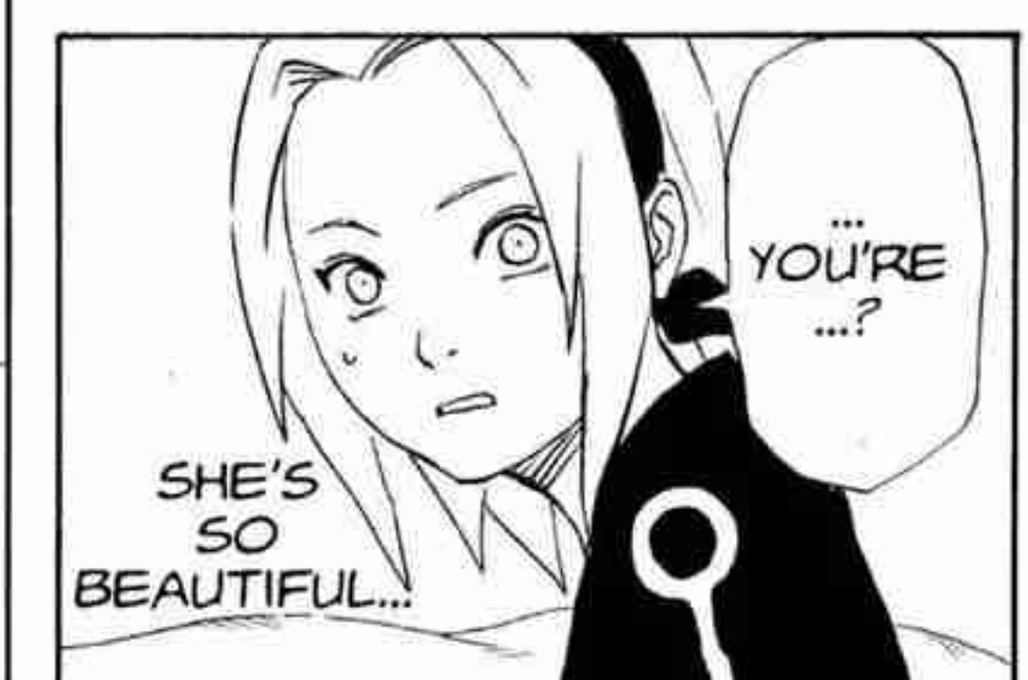
SIZZLE...



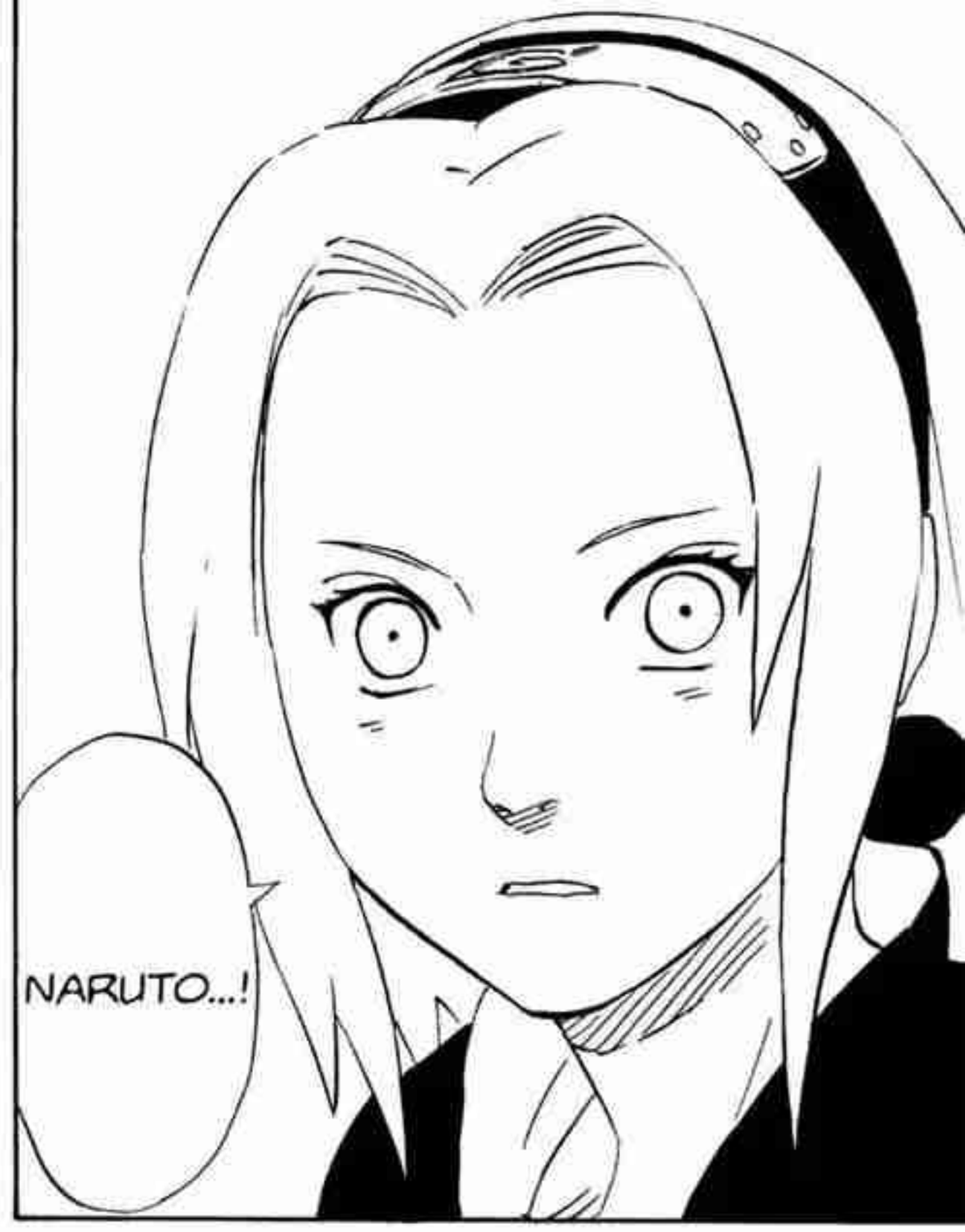


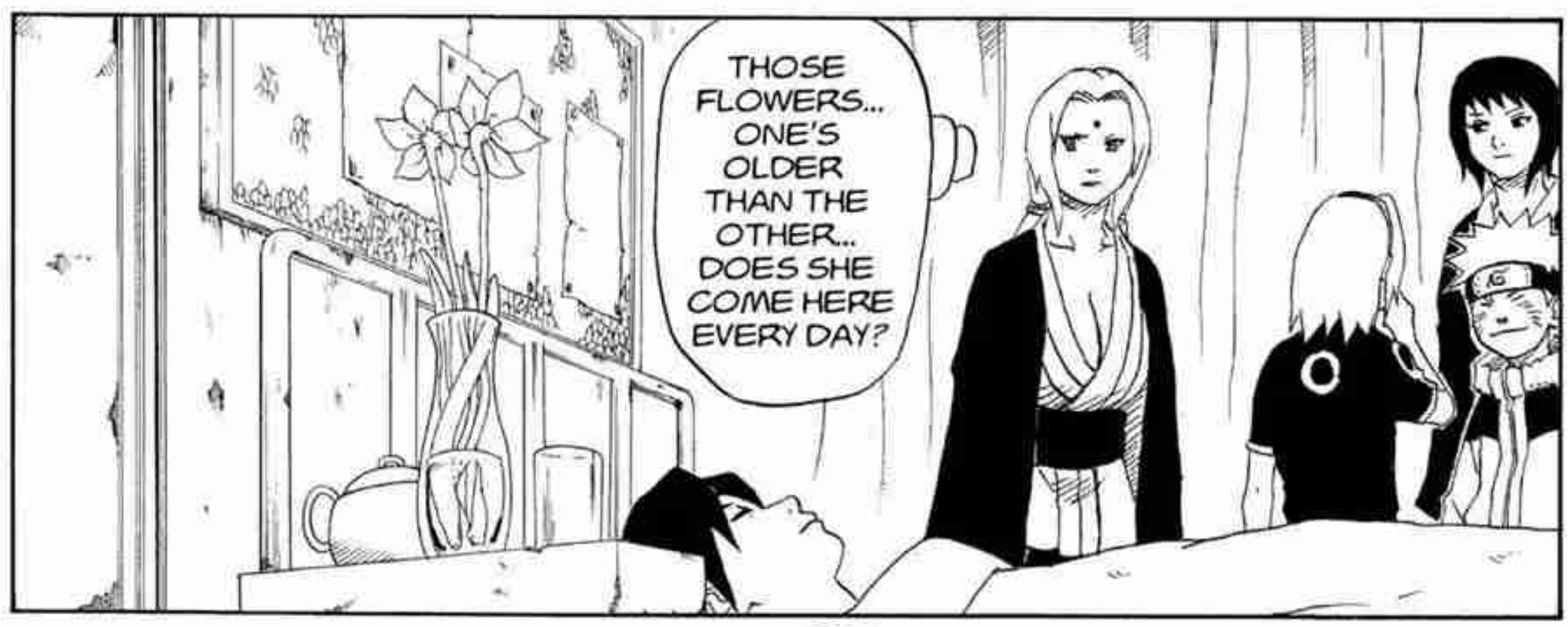


(SIGN: KONOHA HOSPITAL)



HEH HEH.

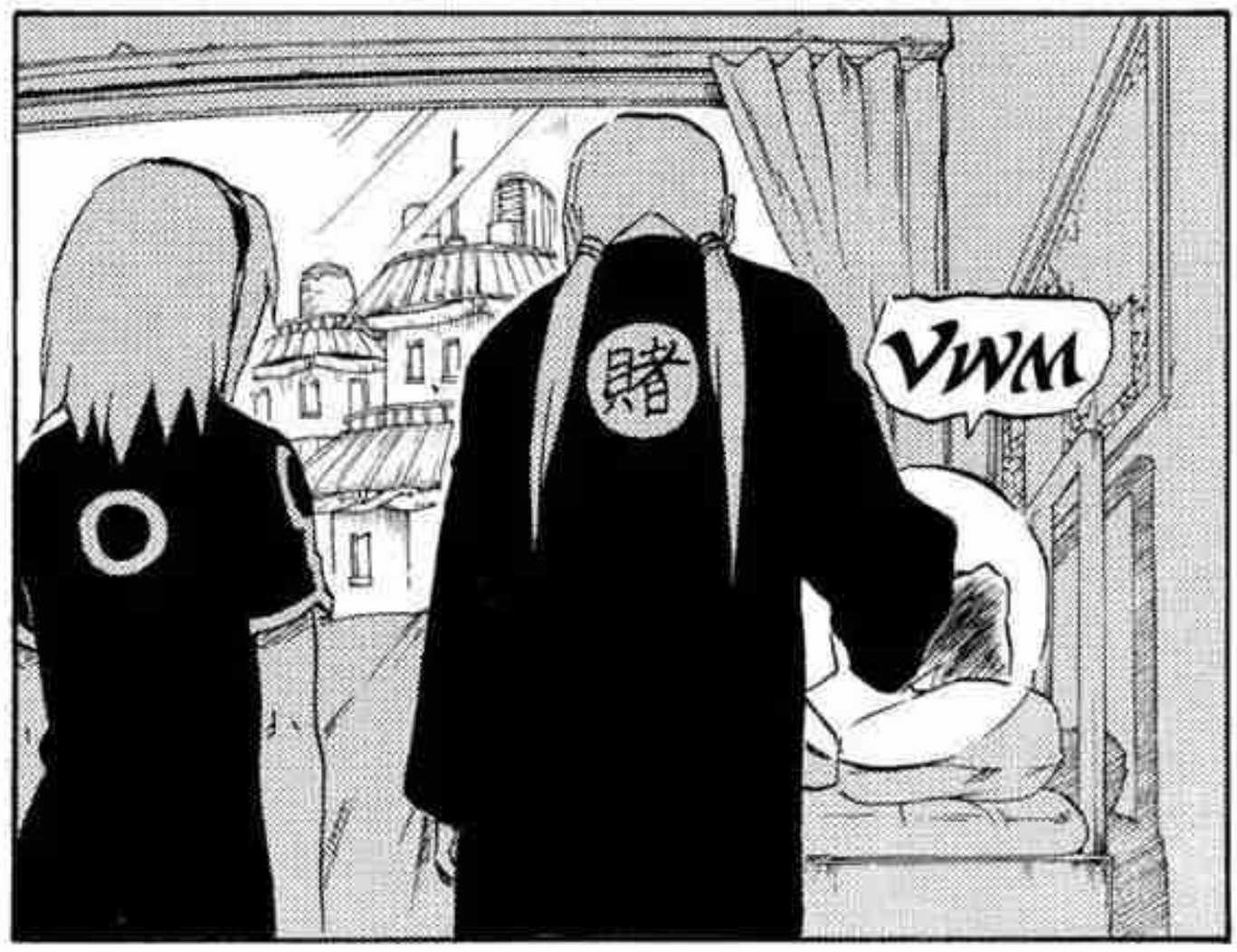

NARUTO...!


THOSE FLOWERS... ONE'S OLDER THAN THE OTHER... DOES SHE COME HERE EVERY DAY?

OF COURSE! DON'T WORRY!

MASTER GUY TOLD ME.
BOW
!
PLEASE... PLEASE HELP SASUKE!

FWIP



SPLASH

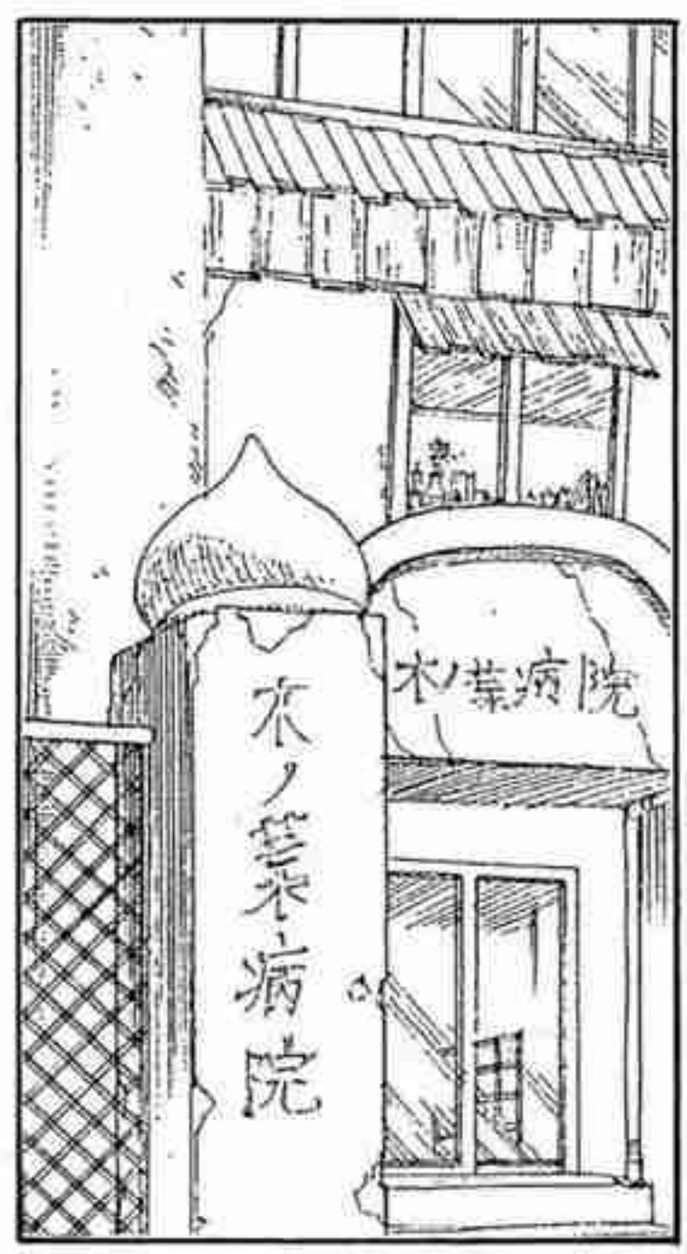
YOW!!
FWISH
...

GO FOR A TRIPLE TWIST NEXT! SET YOUR AIM!!
WAY TO GO, AKAMARU! YOU NAILED THE AERIAL DYNAMIC MARKING!!
RUFF!!
FLIP FLIP

MAYBE I SHOULD GET ONE TOO...
THEY'RE LUCKY THEY HAVE A HOBBY.

BZZZ
rattle rattle

NAH, PROBABLY NOT.
CAN THAT BE CALLED WALKING THE DOG?
I CAN'T COLLECT INSECTS WITH THEM FLYIN' AROUND.

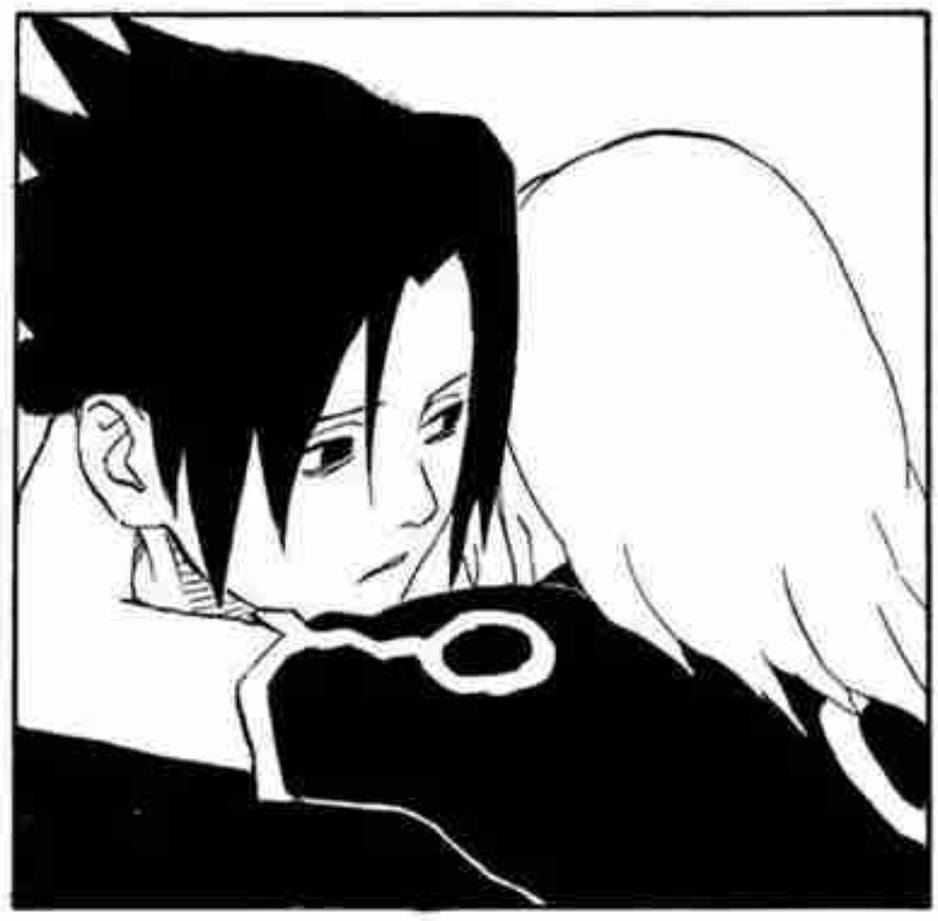

木ノ葉病院
木ノ葉病院

SASUKE...
...

...

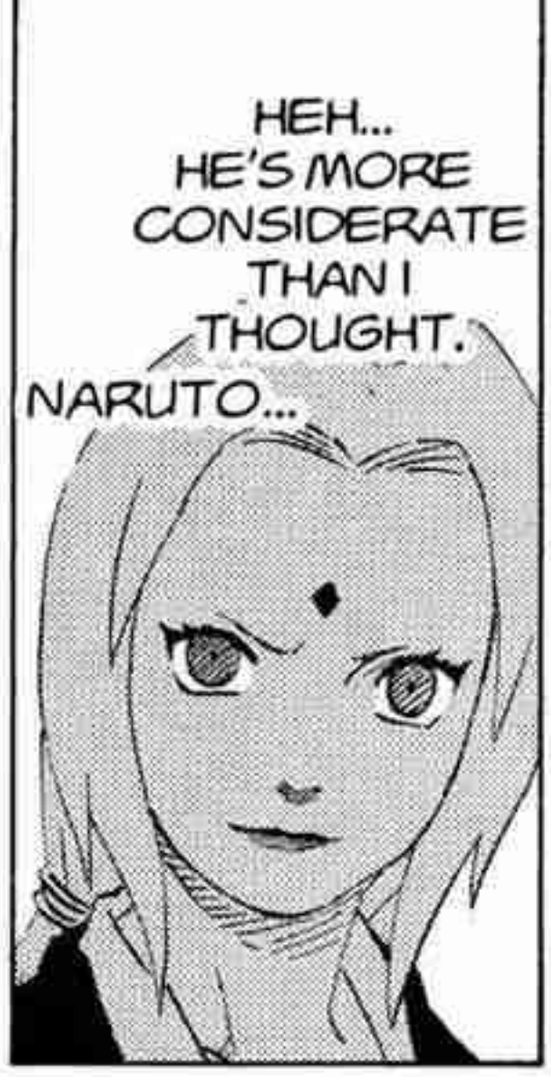
SASUKE...
YOU...

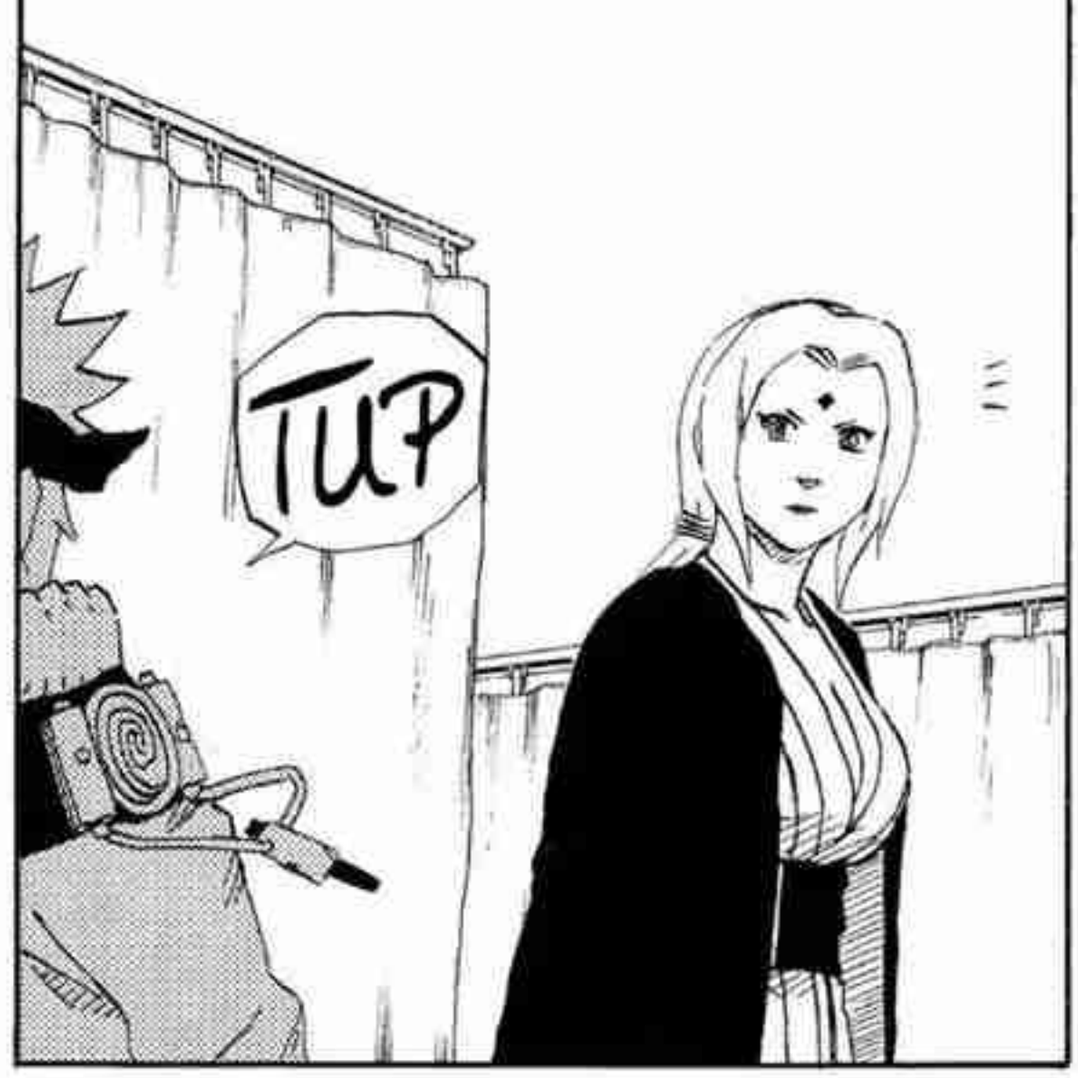
...



...

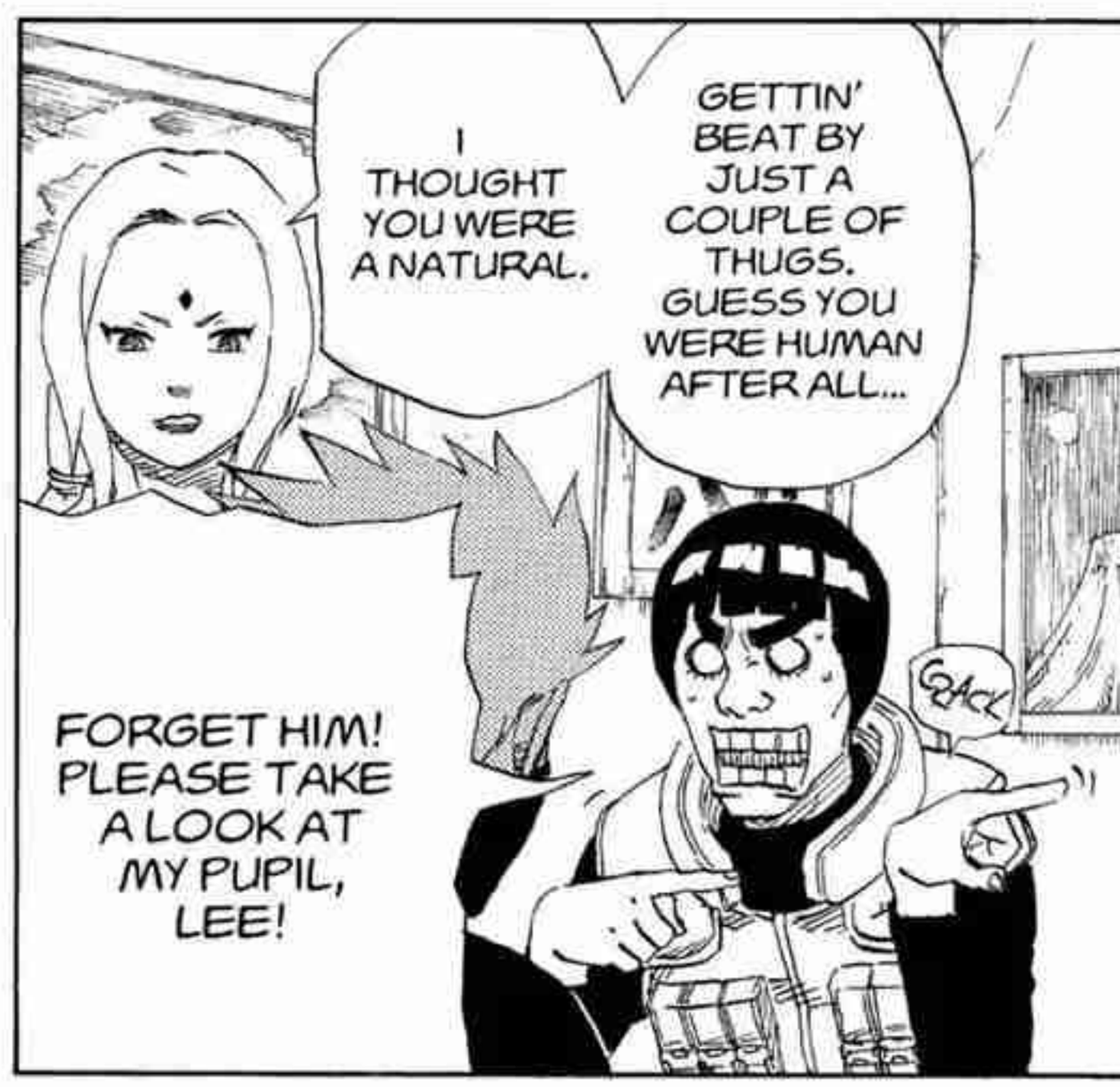
木ノ葉病院
木ノ葉病院


HEH... HE'S MORE CONSIDERATE THAN I THOUGHT.
NARUTO...


TUP

SIGH...
...

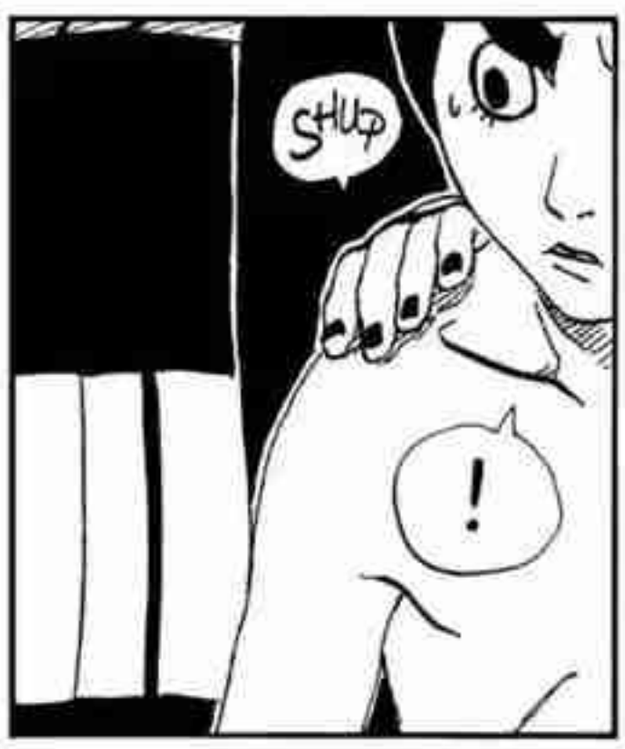
一楽
ラーメン
一楽

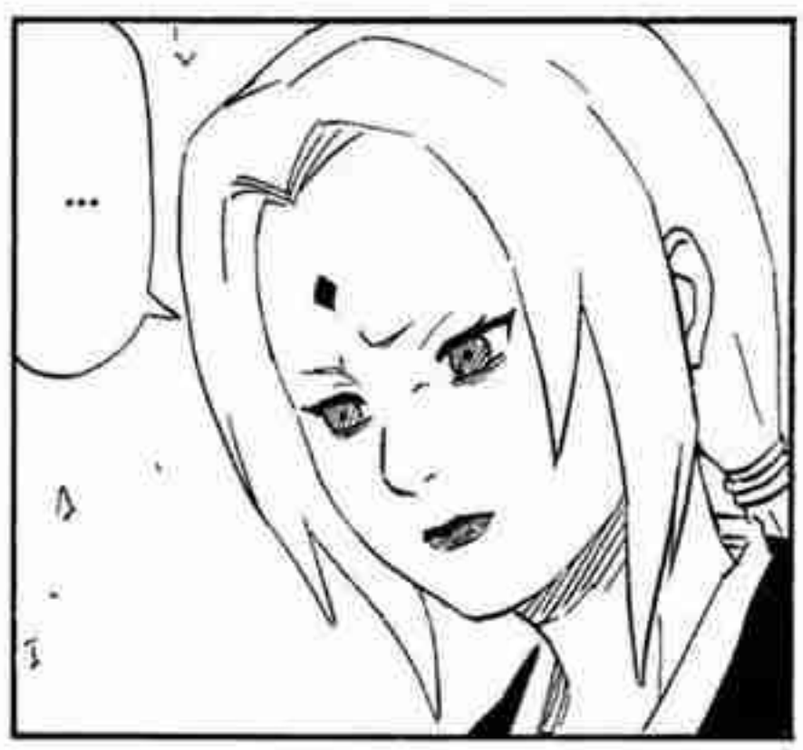

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A NATURAL.
GETTIN' BEAT BY JUST A COUPLE OF THUGS. GUESS YOU WERE HUMAN AFTER ALL...
FORGET HIM! PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT MY PUPIL, LEE!
GACK

READ THIS WAY
ONLY SHIKAMARU GOT PRO-MOTED.
WHAT... THEN! WHAT ABOUT ...WHAT ABOUT SASUKE?!
SHIKAMARU FOUGHT IN THE CHÛNIN EXAM USING HIS BRAIN... THEY RATED THAT HIGHLY WHEN THEY DISCUSSED IT AT THE VILLAGE.
EVEN IF YOU LOSE IN THE FINAL SELECTION, IF YOU'RE DEEMED QUALIFIED, YOU CAN BE PROMOTED TO CHÛNIN. DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE HOKAGE...?
SHIKA-MARU'S A CHÛNIN?! WHY?! WHY?!
URK
木ノ葉病院
病院
SIGH.
THIS IS...!!

Congrats! 4th Anniversary!!!!
Mr. Kishimoto! Take care of yourself and keep up the great work!!
2003.11.8
Akira Okubo おおくぼあきら

Number 173:
Anguish





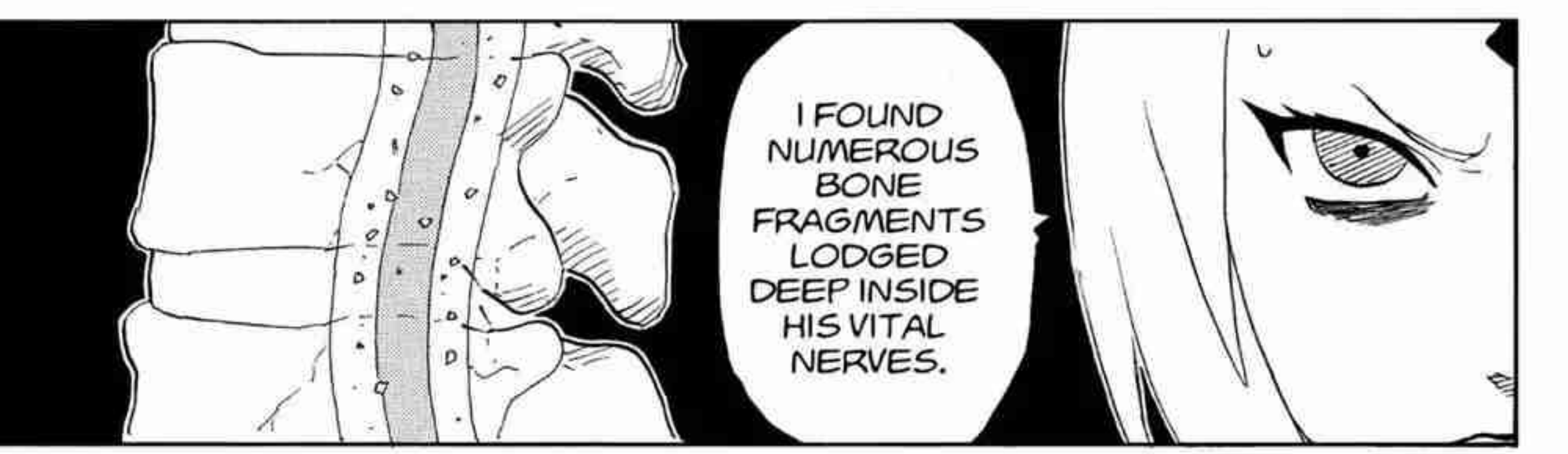
...YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT TO BE A SHINOBI.

I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT...

?!

?!
DADDY

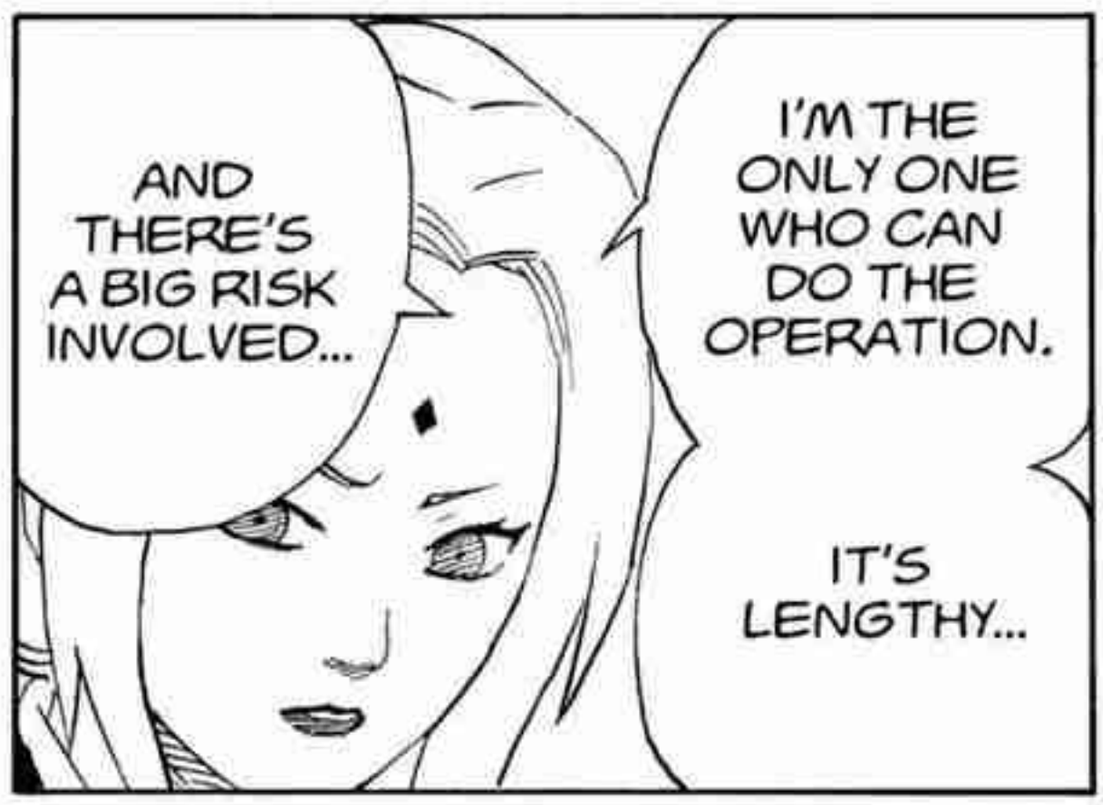
HA HA HA...
NO NEED TO JOKE, MILADY.


I FOUND NUMEROUS BONE FRAGMENTS LODGED DEEP INSIDE HIS VITAL NERVES.

SHE'S USING THE ART OF TRANSFOR-MATION!!
LEE! THIS IS AN IMPOSTOR!
YOU WICKED CREATURE! WHO ARE YOU?!

EVEN IF HE GETS SURGERY ...
HE'S IN NO CONDITION TO PERFORM ANY KIND OF MISSION AS A SHINOBI.

DO I... NOT HAVE A CHANCE...?
D...


AND THERE'S A BIG RISK INVOLVED...
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THE OPERATION.
IT'S LENGTHY...

...

THE ODDS OF THE OPERATION BEING A SUCCESS ARE 50 PERCENT AT BEST.
...

... RISK ...?

YOU'LL DIE IF I FAIL!!

READ THIS WAY
...
HUF
HUF
...
YOU'LL BE INCAPA-CITATED FOR A LONG TIME.
EVEN IF IT IS A SUCCESS ...
!!
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

GLOM

KOT KOT

KOT

SLIP
...
LEE...

WHACK
WHACK

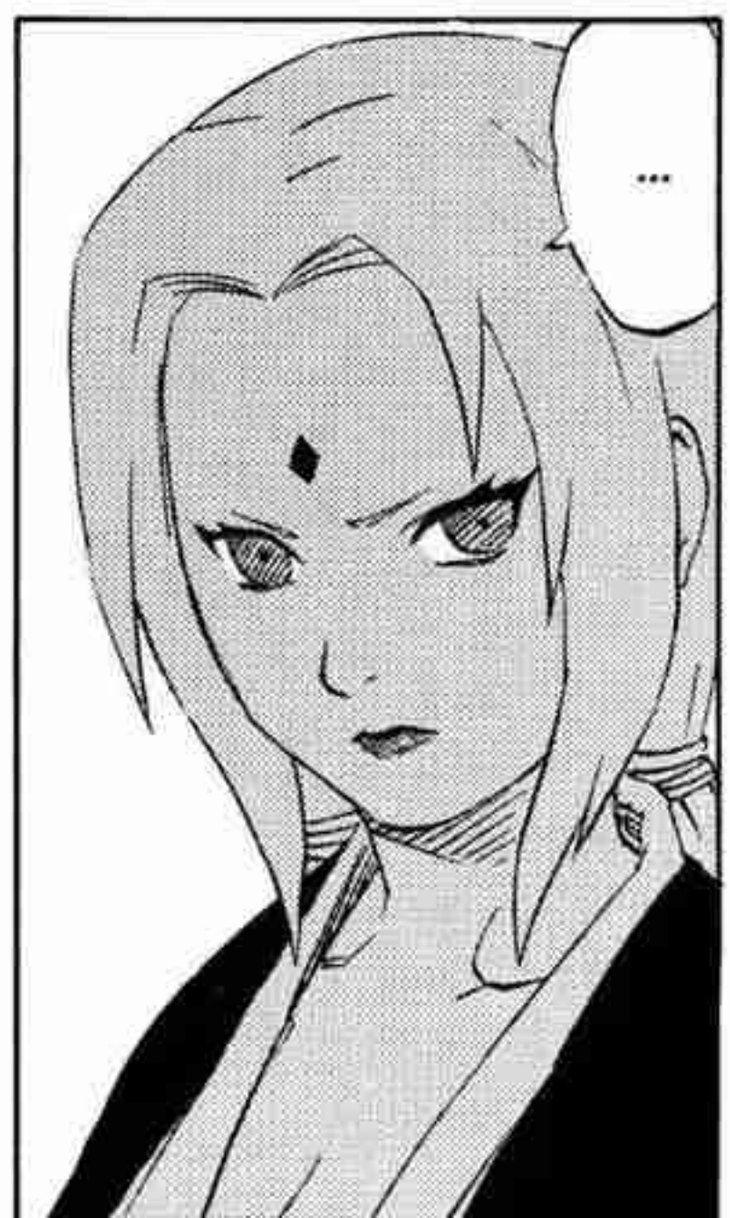
TSU-
NADE...
...
BLAM
BUT YOU
DESERVE
TO KNOW.
I'M
PAINFULLY
AWARE OF
HOW YOU
MUST FEEL.

WHAT ARE THESE HORRIBLE THINGS?
CHOMP CHOMP
THOSE ARE MY SPECIAL YOUTHFUL VIGOR HERBAL PILLS!

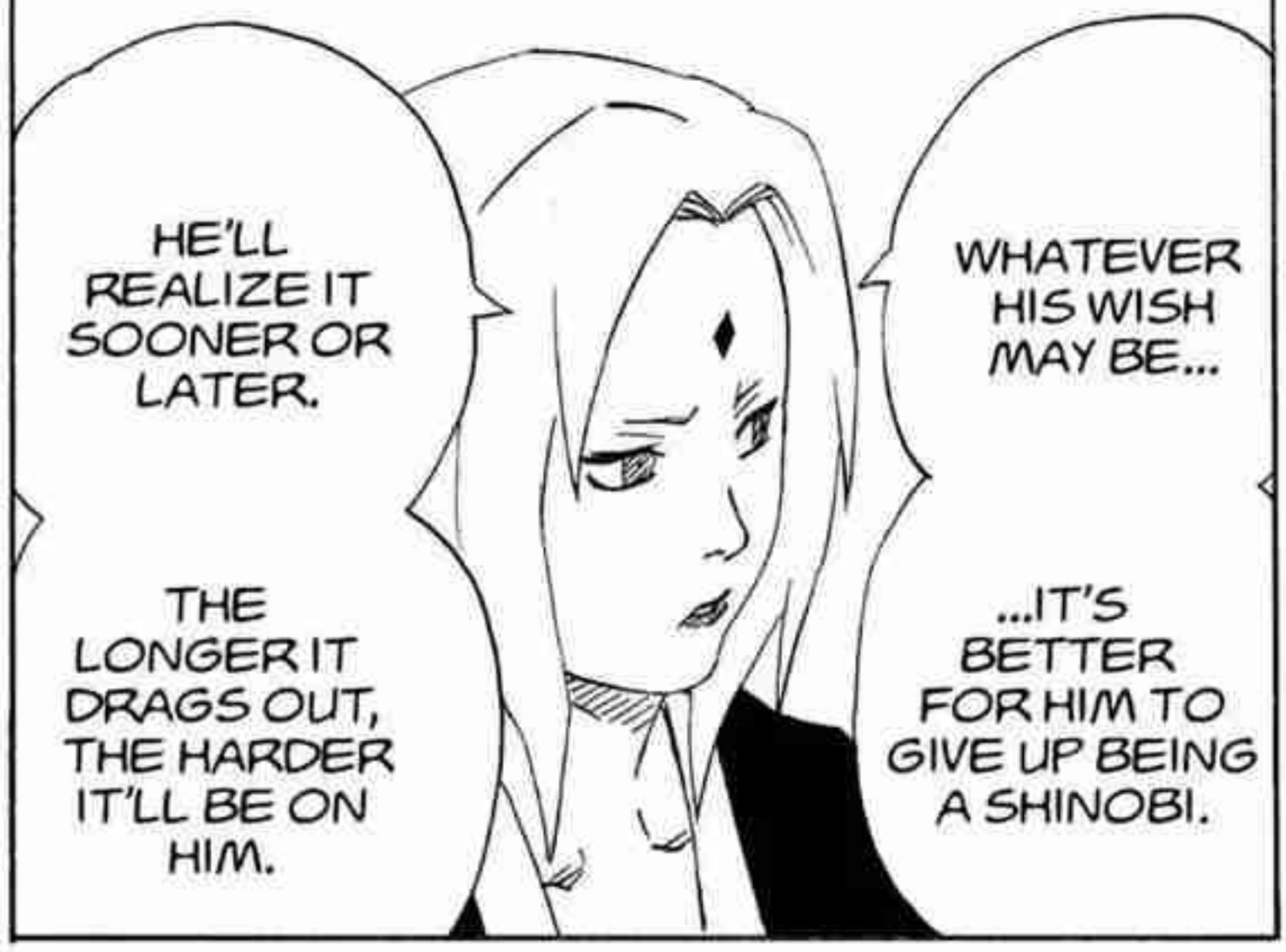
I'M NOT GONNA LET THIS STOP ME!
MASTER GUY!

KAAA A
NOT ALL IN ONE DAY!!
CHOMP CHOMP

I SEE... SO IF I DON'T EAT A HUNDRED I WON'T BE HEALED?!
EAT A HUNDRED OF THOSE AND YOU'LL BE HEALED!

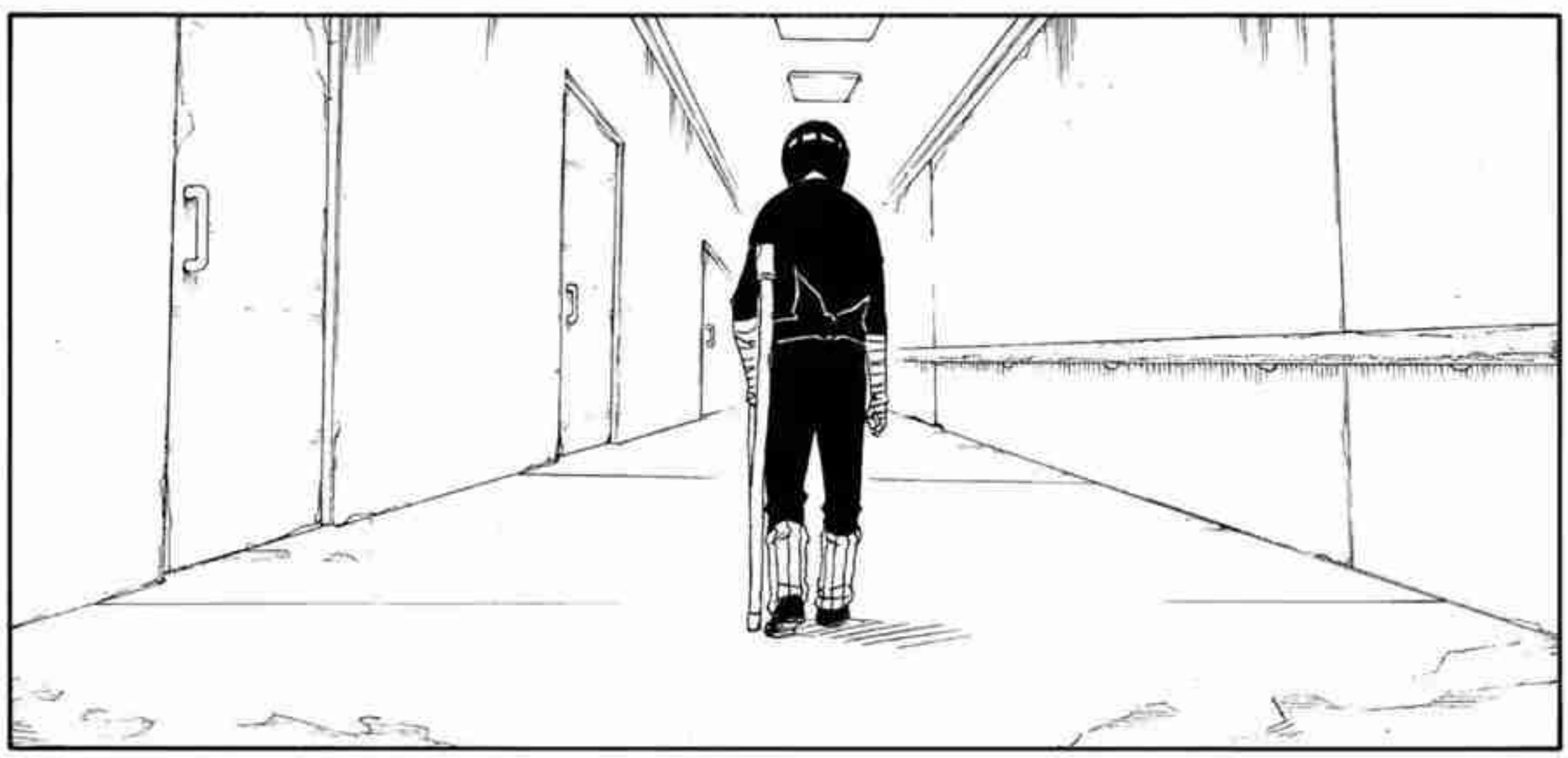

...

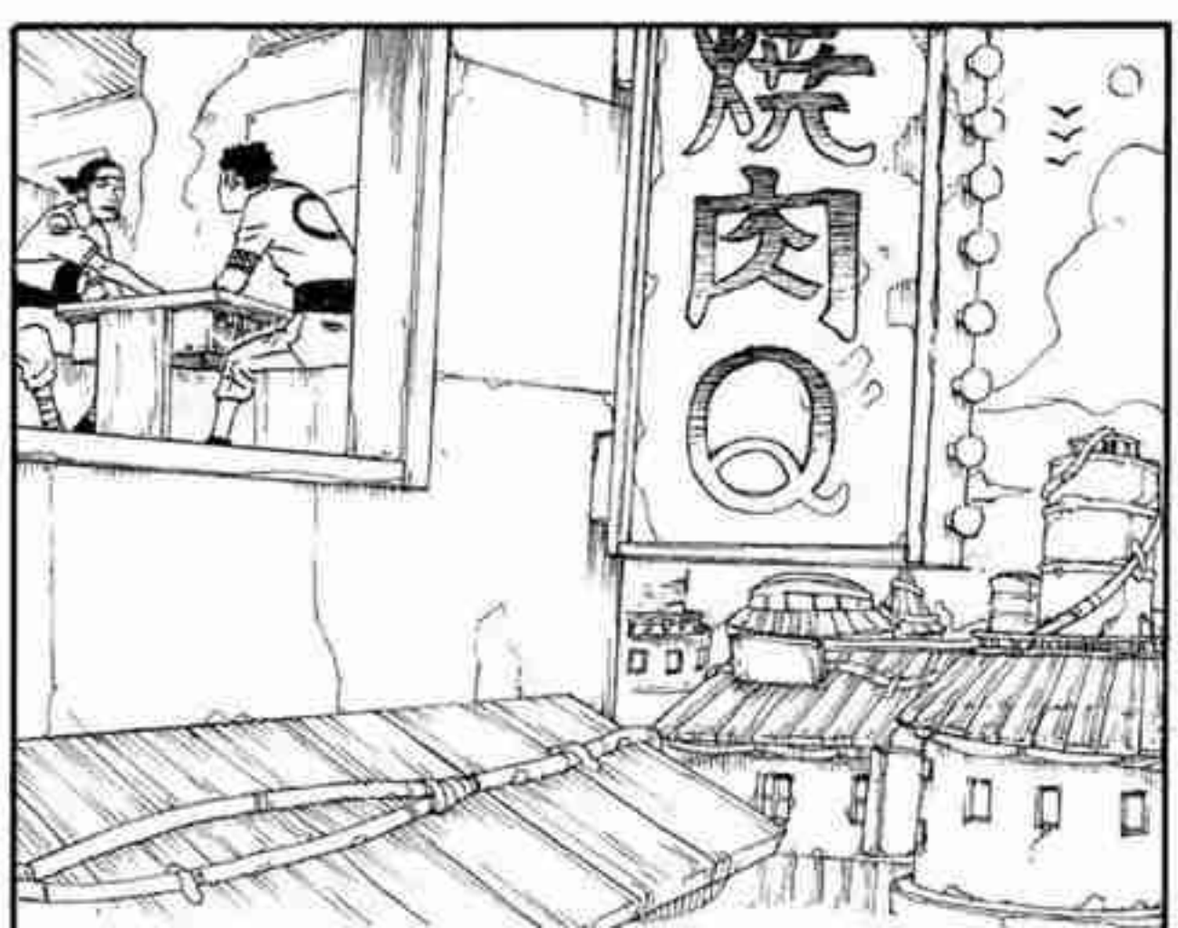
GULP
...

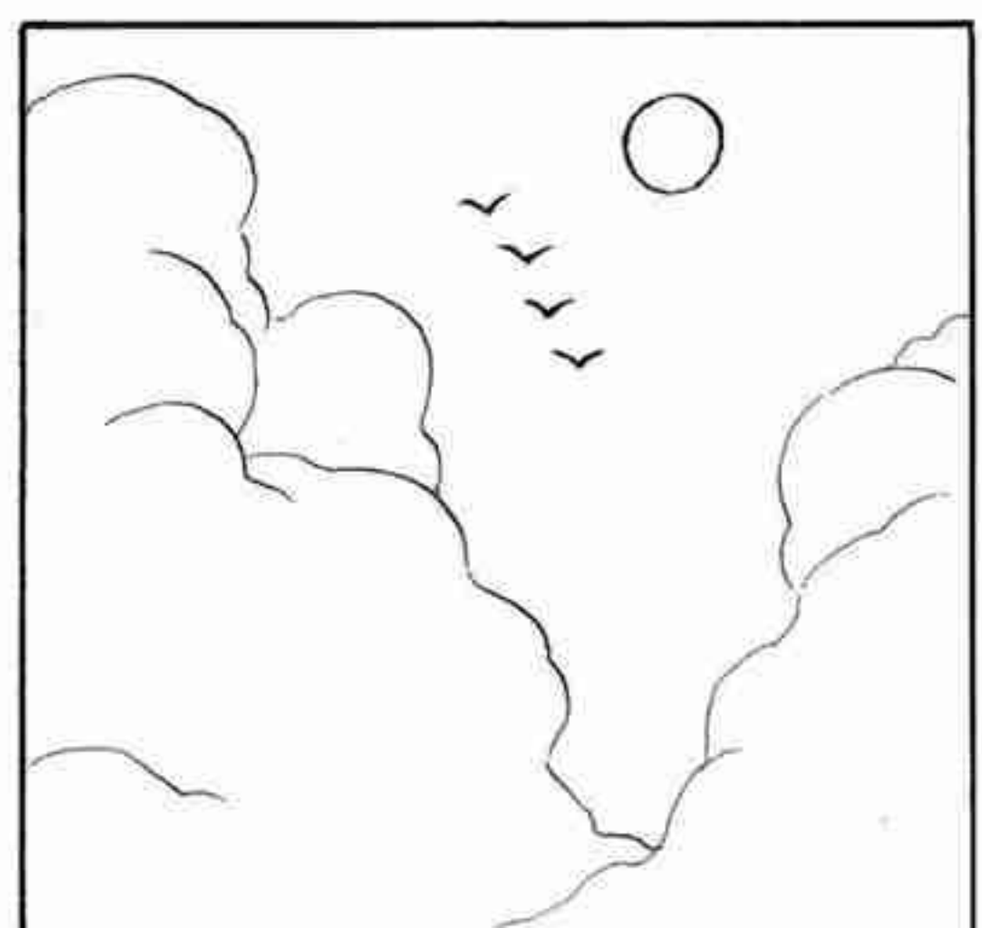

HE'LL REALIZE IT SOONER OR LATER.
THE LONGER IT DRAGS OUT, THE HARDER IT'LL BE ON HIM.
WHATEVER HIS WISH MAY BE...
...IT'S BETTER FOR HIM TO GIVE UP BEING A SHINOBI.

I WOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU EXAMINE HIM...
IF I KNEW IT'D BE LIKE THIS...

...



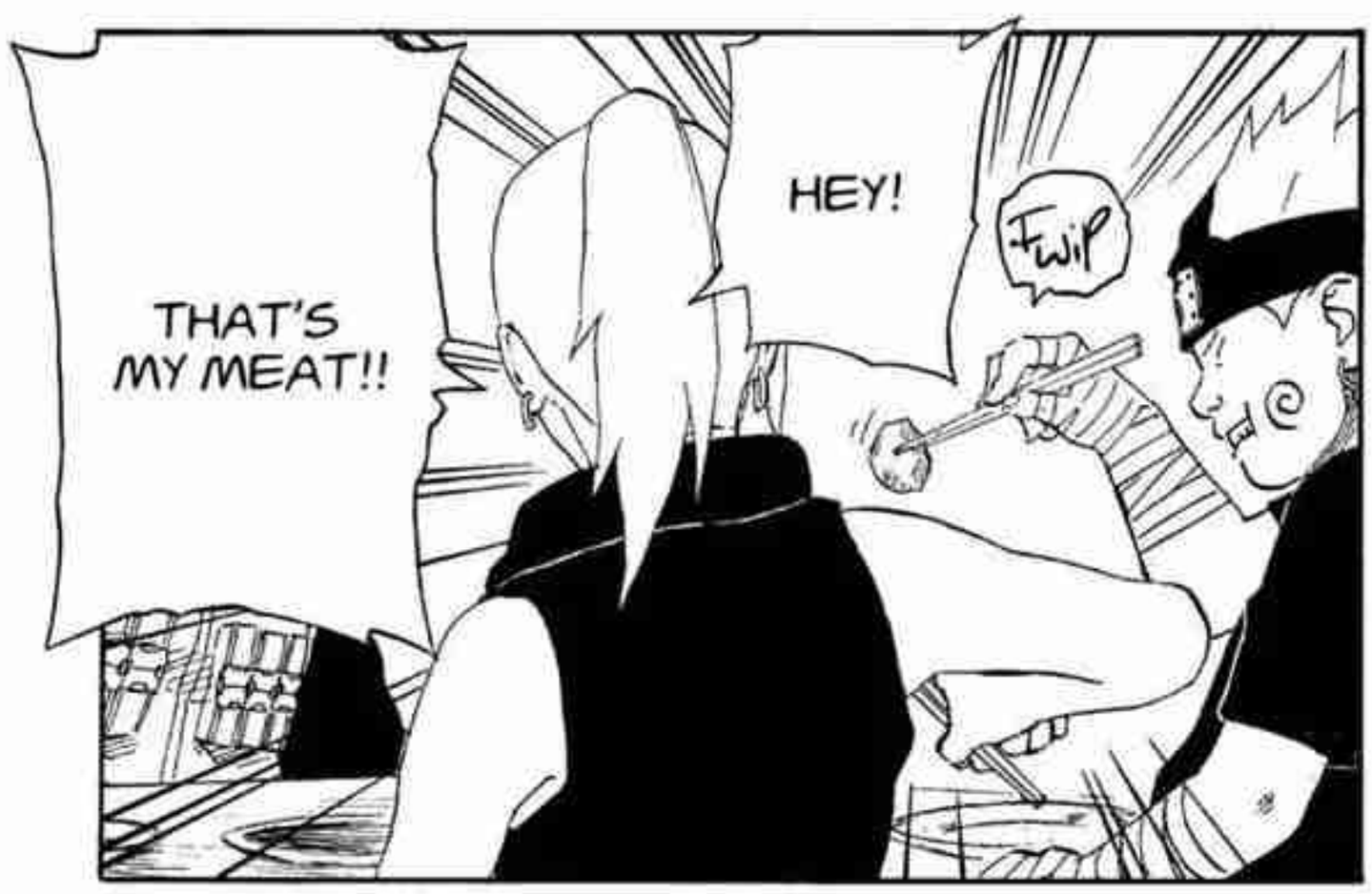

焼肉Q



RELAX! I KNOW HOW TO STUFF MYSELF AND ENJOY IT TOO!

CHOMP
CHOMP

DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO ENJOY YOUR FOOD?!
YOU WANNA GO BACK TO THE HOSPITAL?!


THAT'S MY MEAT!!
HEY!
FWIP

SHF
SIZZLE...

THIS IS THE END, AND THE MEAT MOST WORTH ENJOYING!
THE LAST PIECE!

...CAN HAVE THIS LAST BITE!

CHAK

NOBODY...

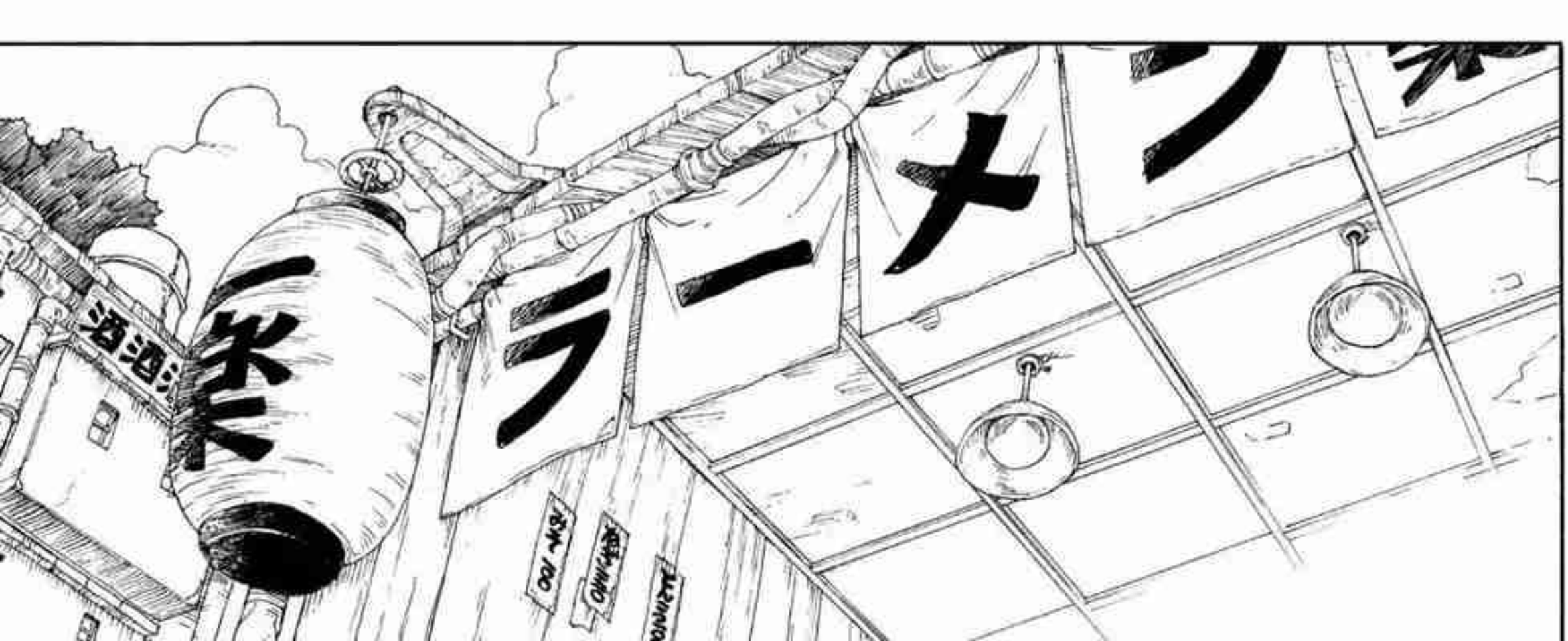
READ
THIS
WAY

...

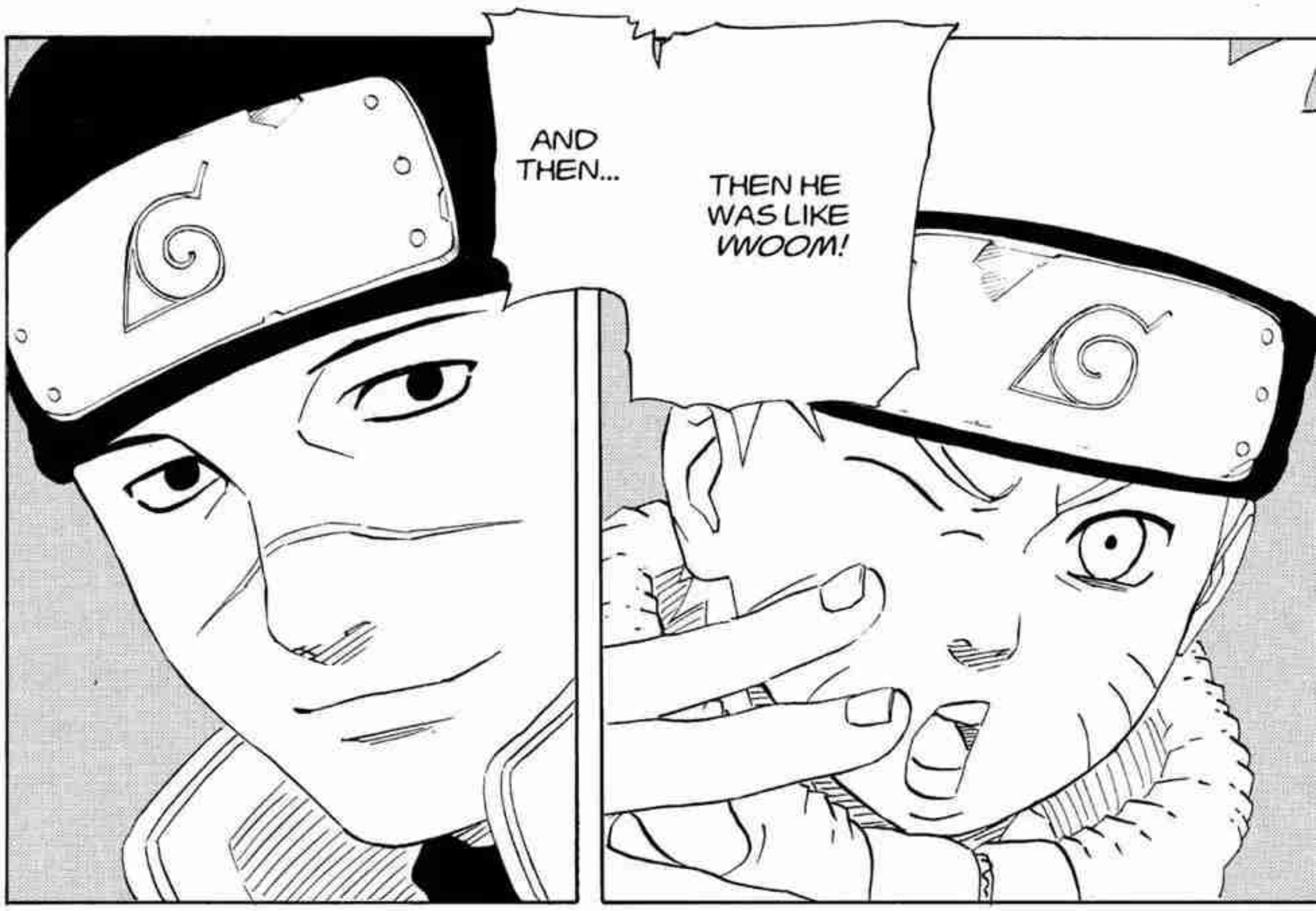
YOU SHOULD TRAIN A BIT MORE...
SHIKA-MARU'S A CHÛNIN ALREADY.
CHOJI, ALL YOU WANNA DO IS EAT....

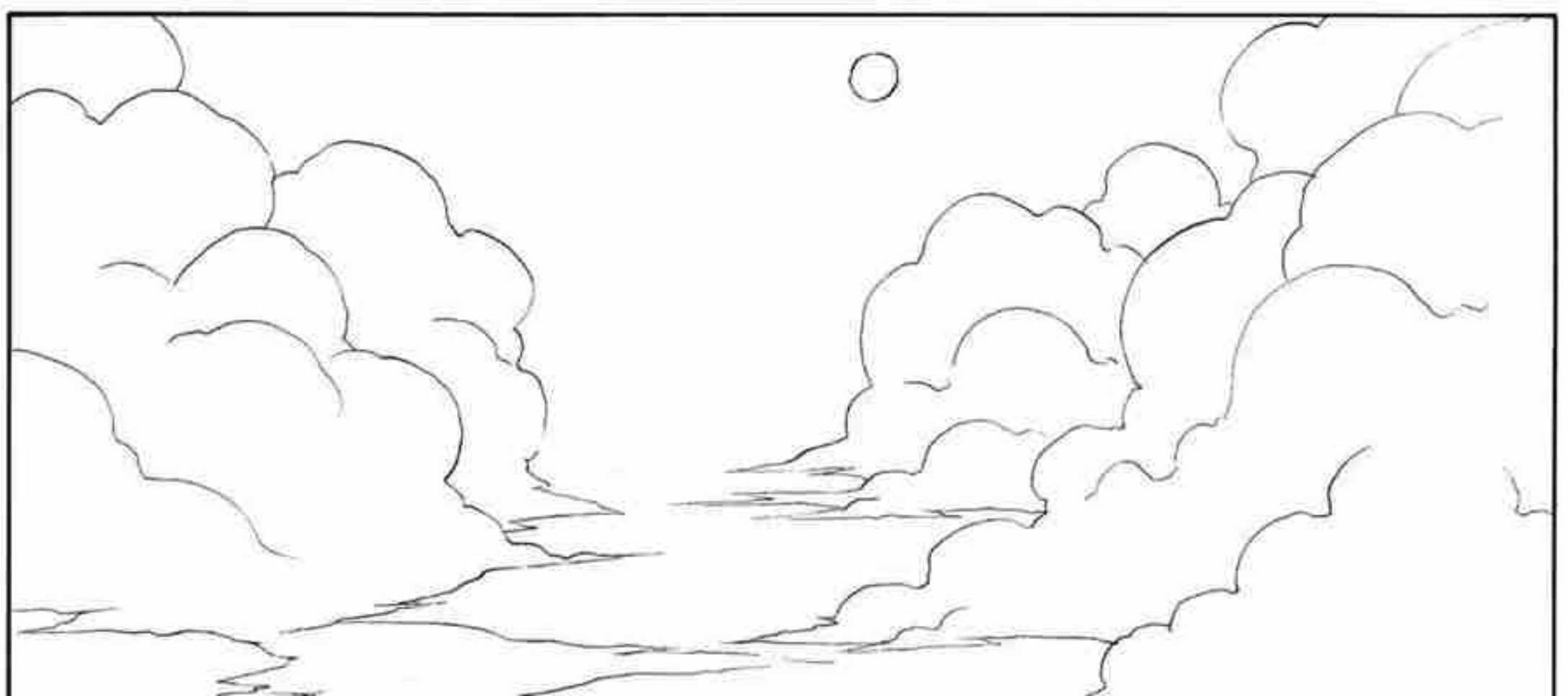
...

SIGH...


酒酒
ラーメン

どうだってば!
ねぎッ!
みそ100
I WENT BAM! USING THIS MOVE CALLED RASENGAN!
AND THEN! AND THEN!

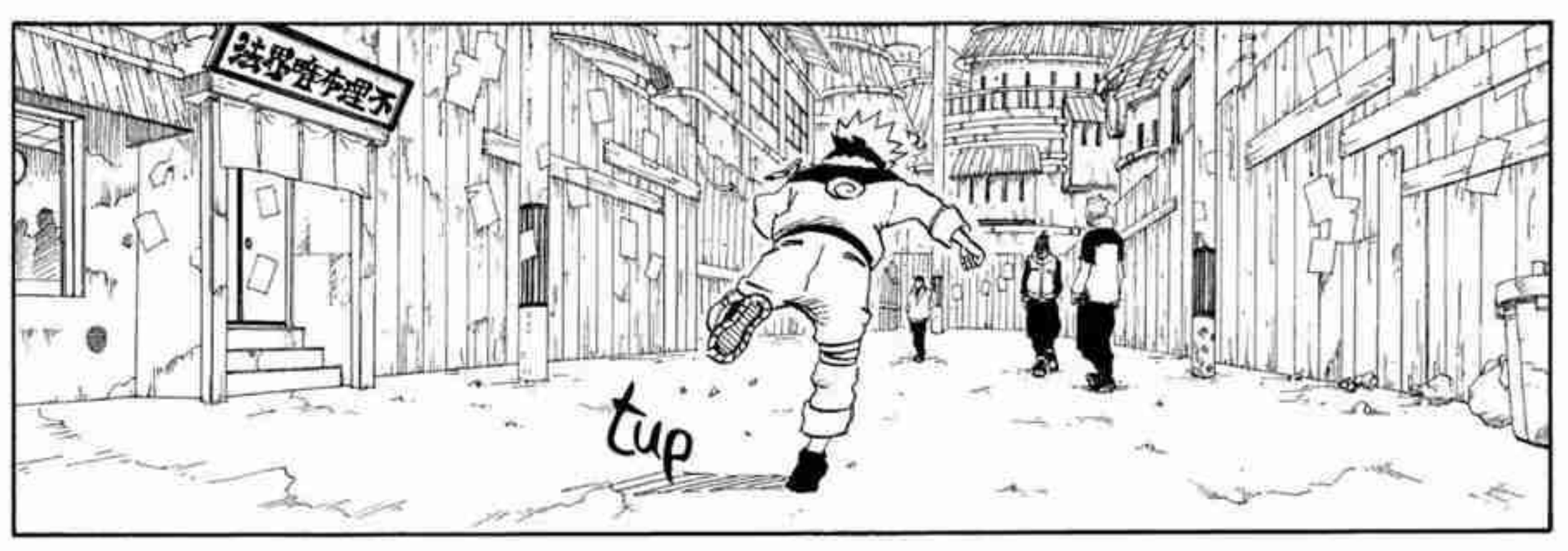

AND THEN...
THEN HE WAS LIKE WOOM!

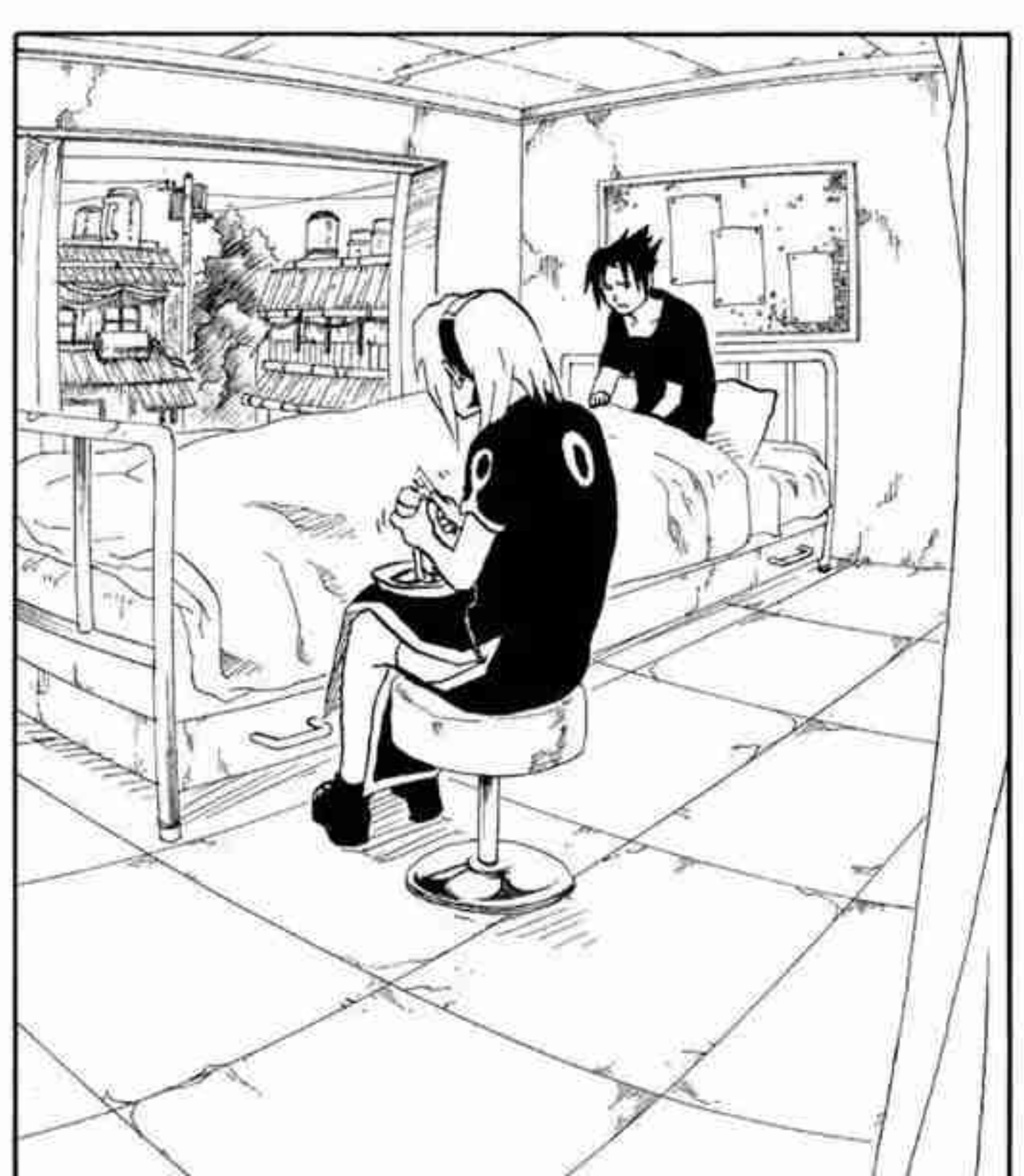


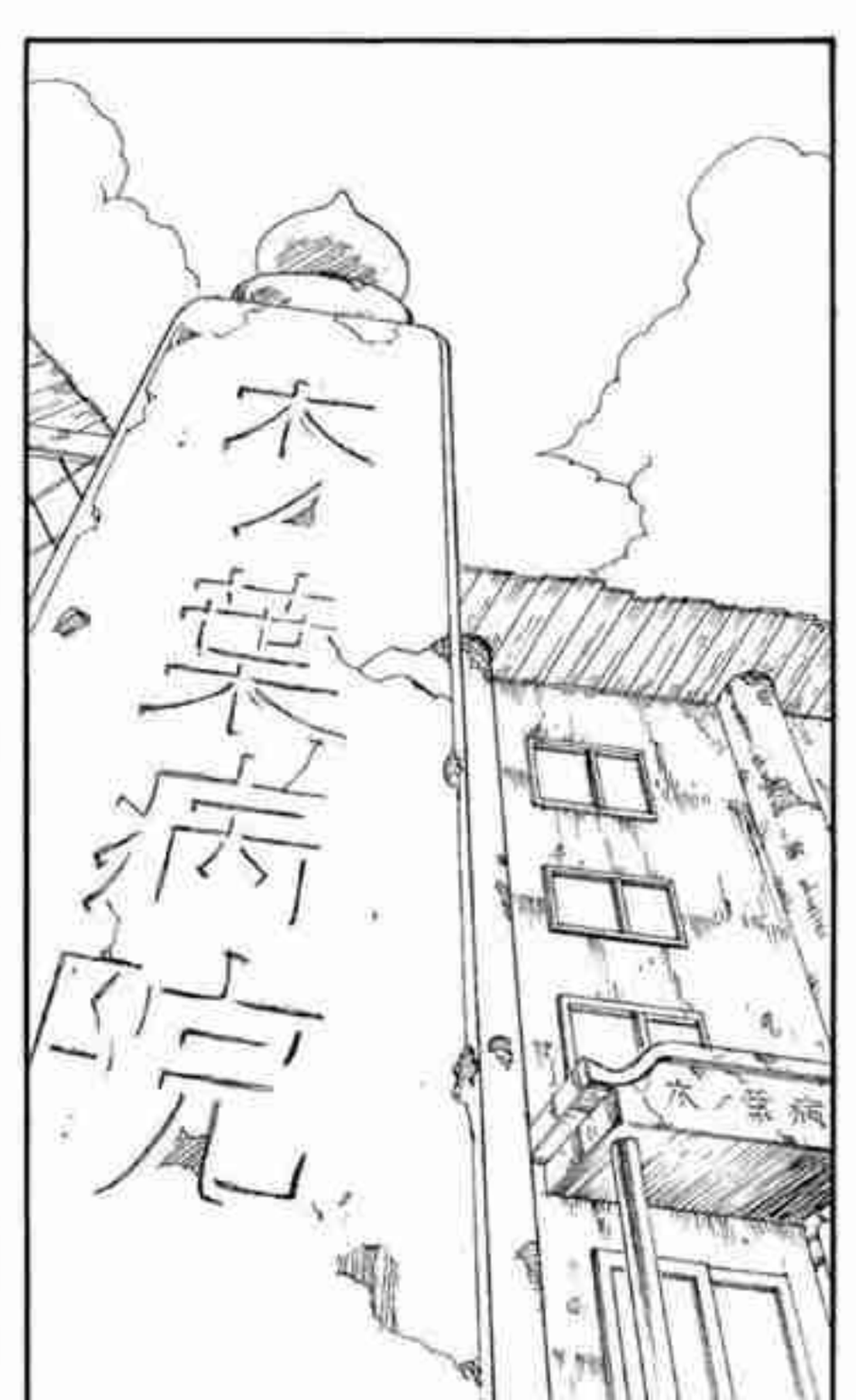
READ THIS WAY
...

ラーメン

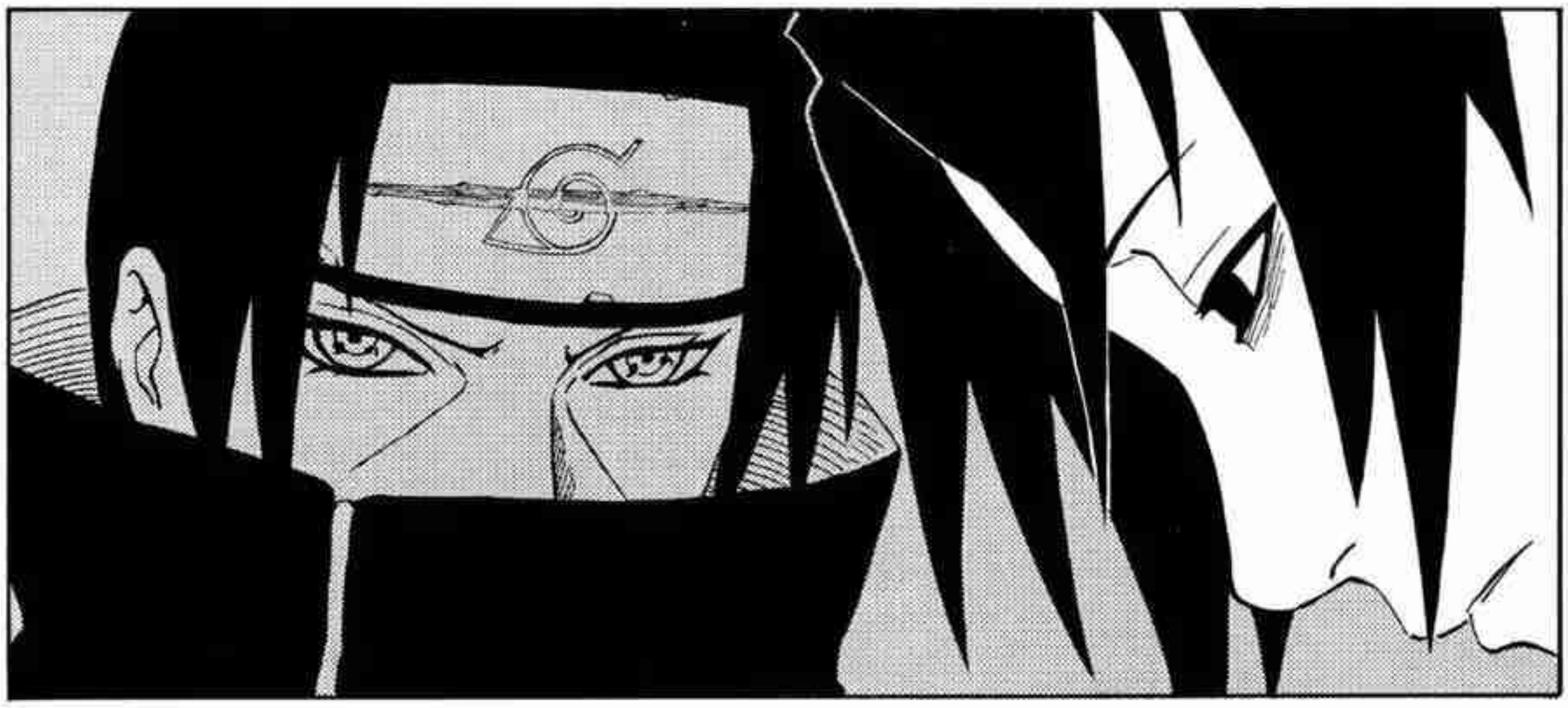
I SHOULD VISIT SASUKE...


法界唐市理不
tup

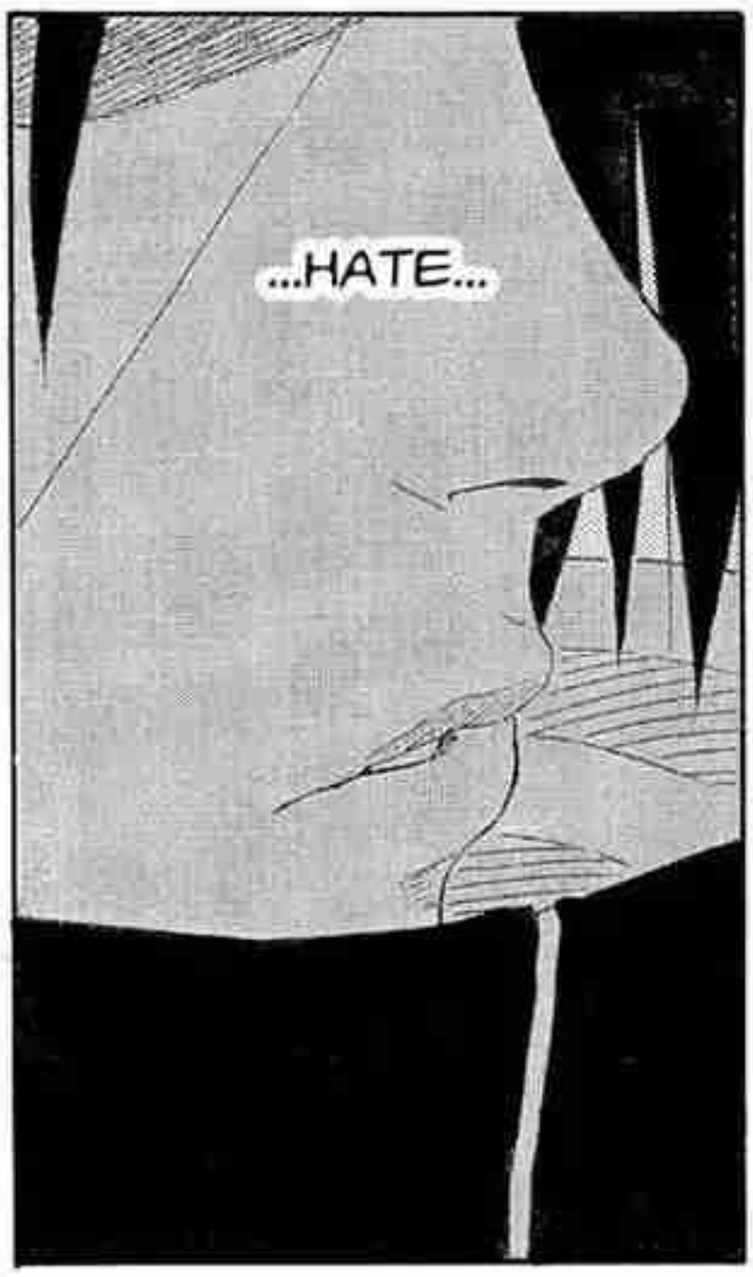



木ノ葉病院

SLSH
SLSH

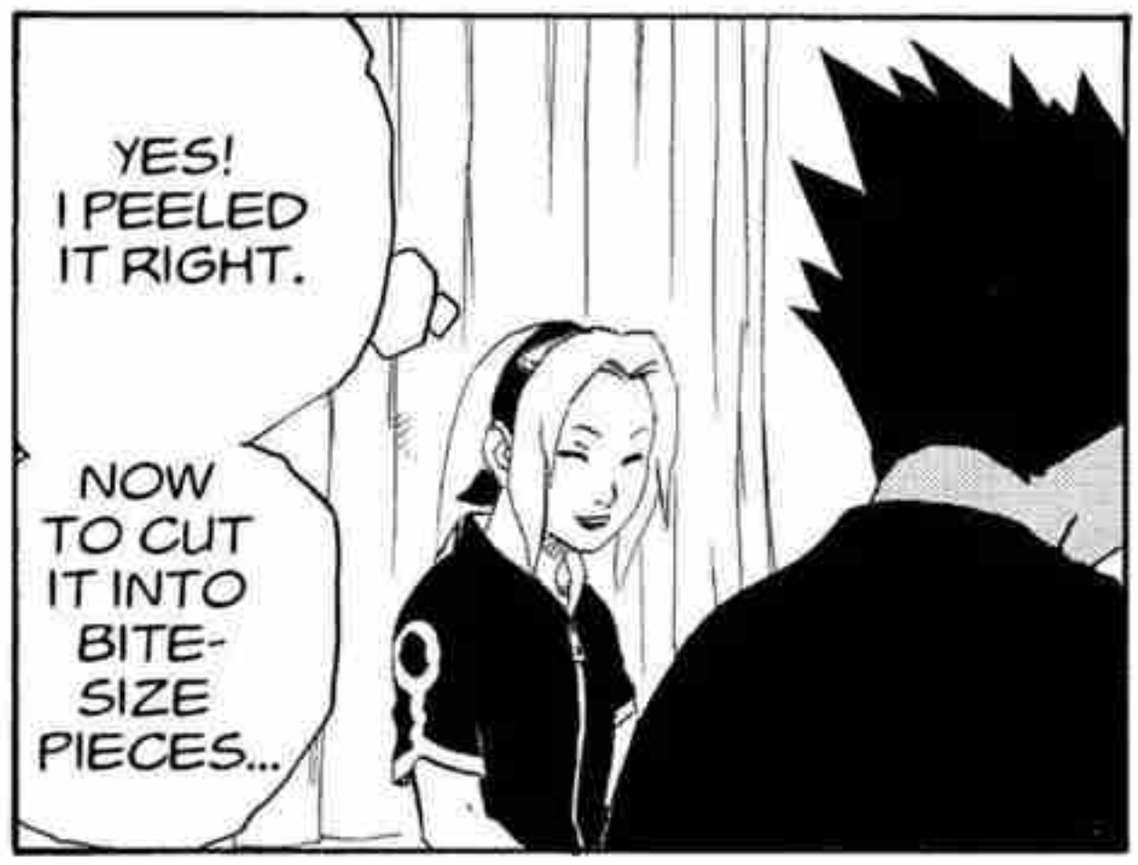


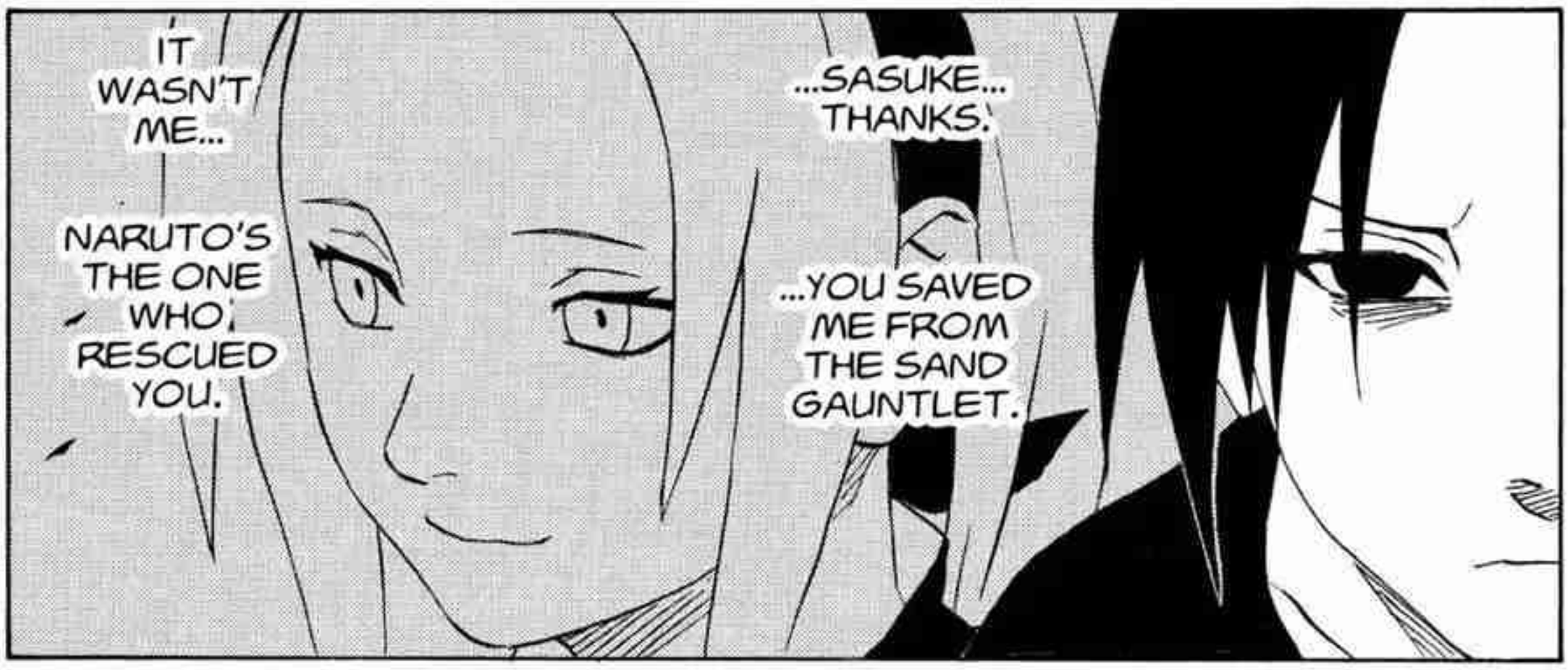
...HMPH.


...HATE...

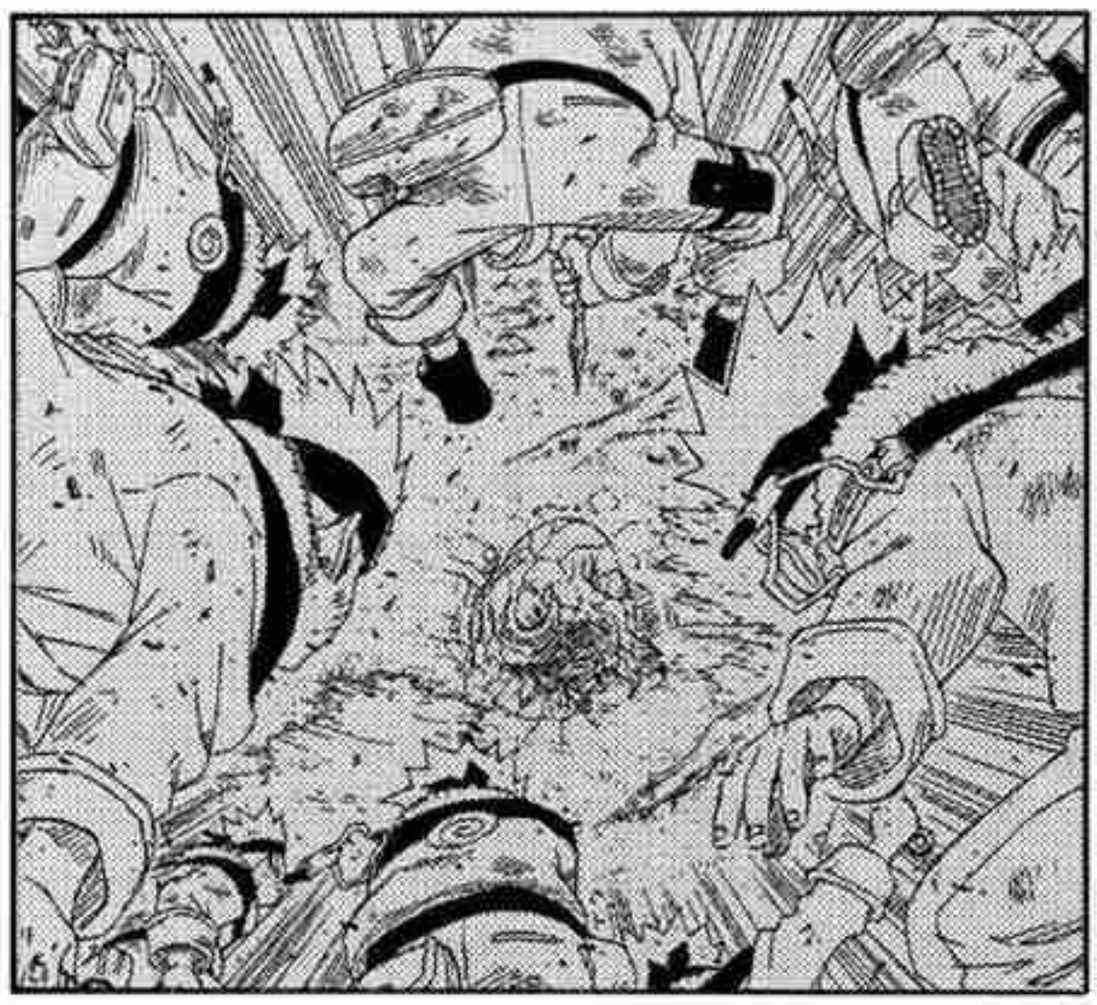
YOU'RE STILL TOO WEAK...
YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH...

...

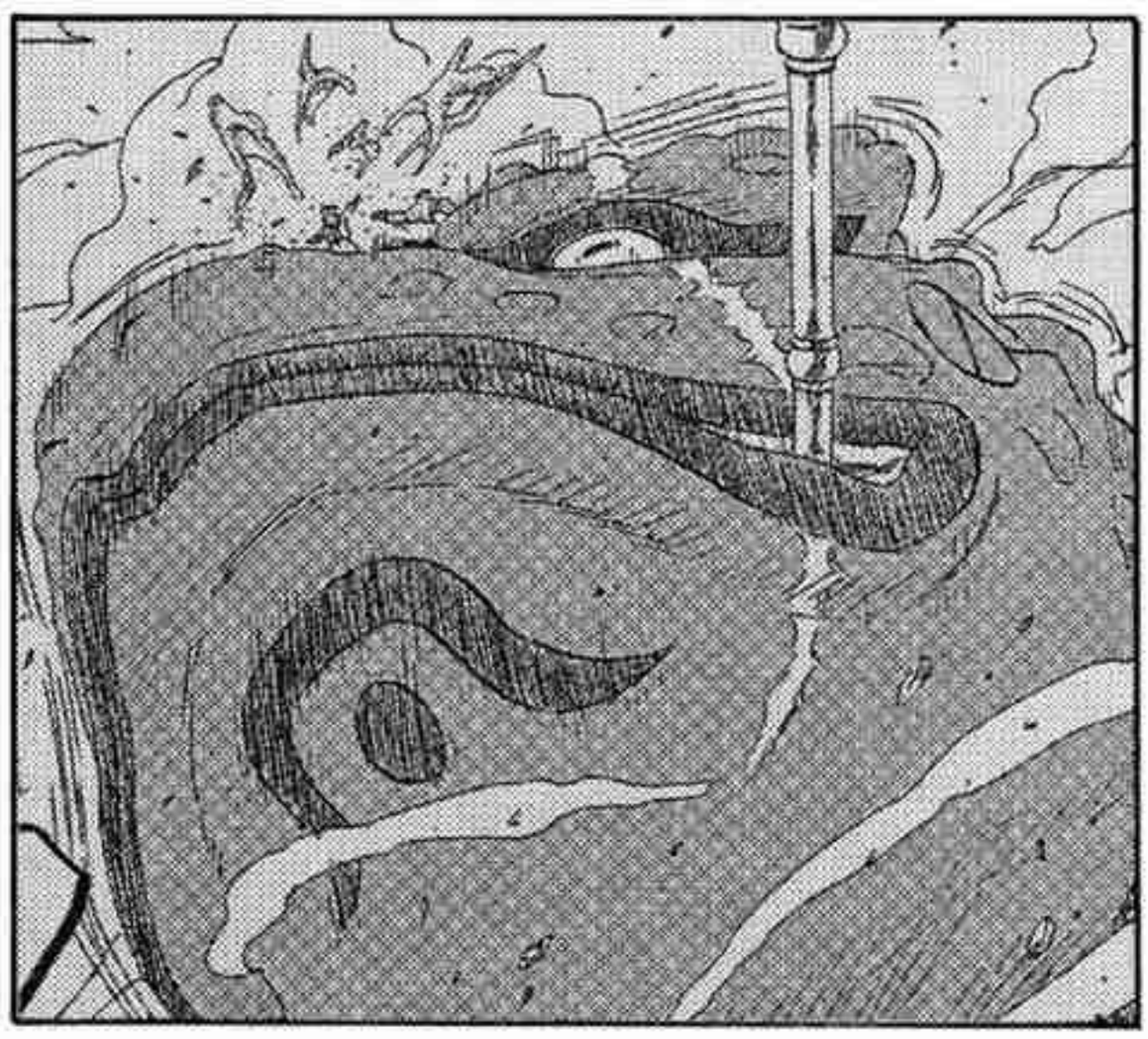

YES! I PEELED IT RIGHT.
NOW TO CUT IT INTO BITE-SIZE PIECES...


IT WASN'T ME...
NARUTO'S THE ONE WHO RESCUED YOU.
...SASUKE... THANKS.
...YOU SAVED ME FROM THE SAND GAUNTLET.

EVEN SHOWING A STRENGTH THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN FROM HIM BEFORE.
HE FOUGHT DESPERATELY IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU.



...
NARUTO...

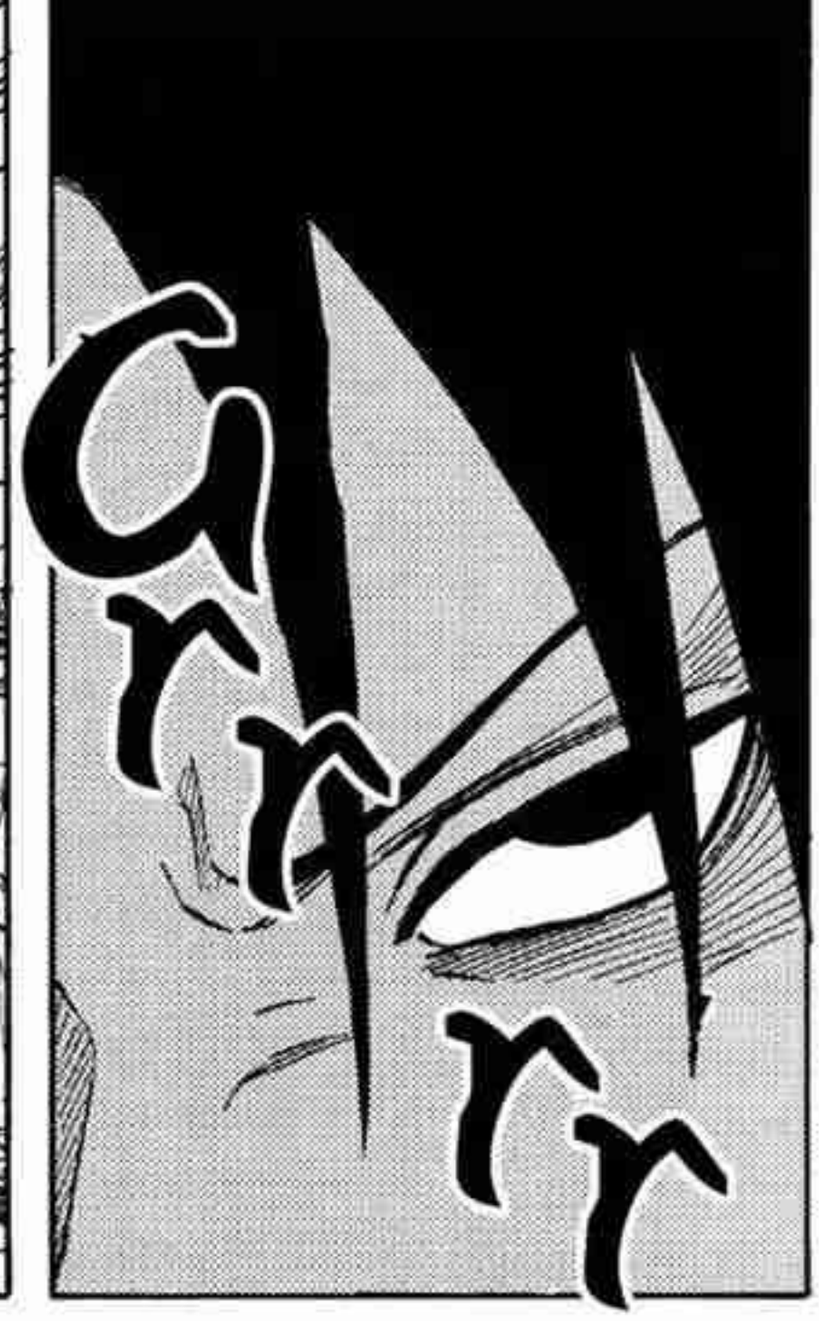


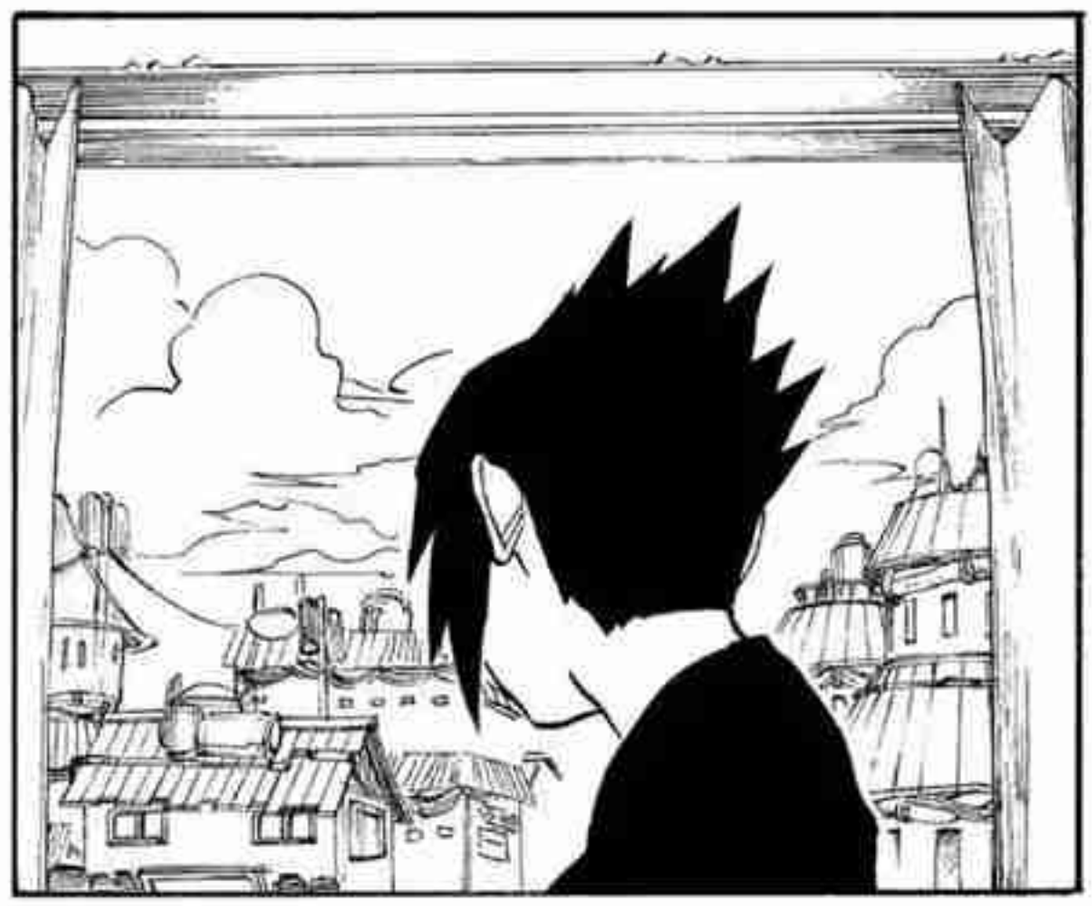
...

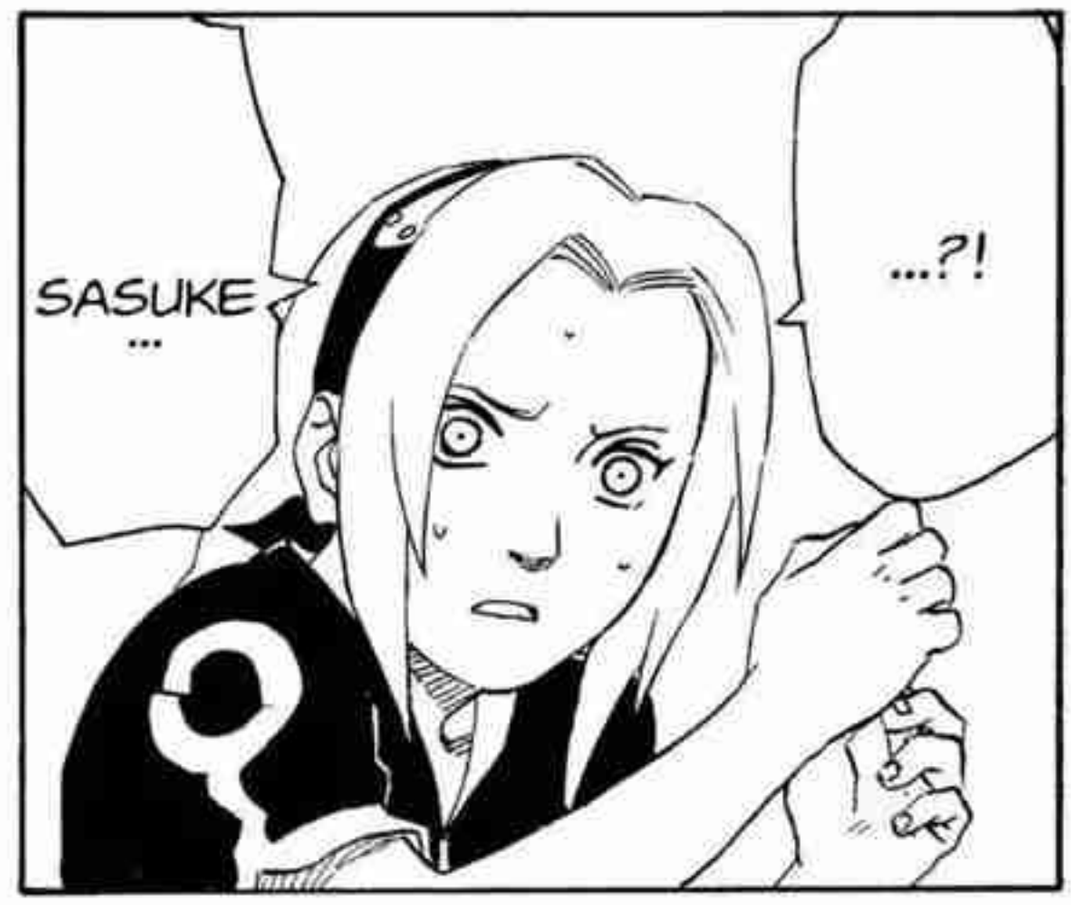
SASUKE, HAVE SOME APPLES!

...

FWAP
GAH!
KLANK





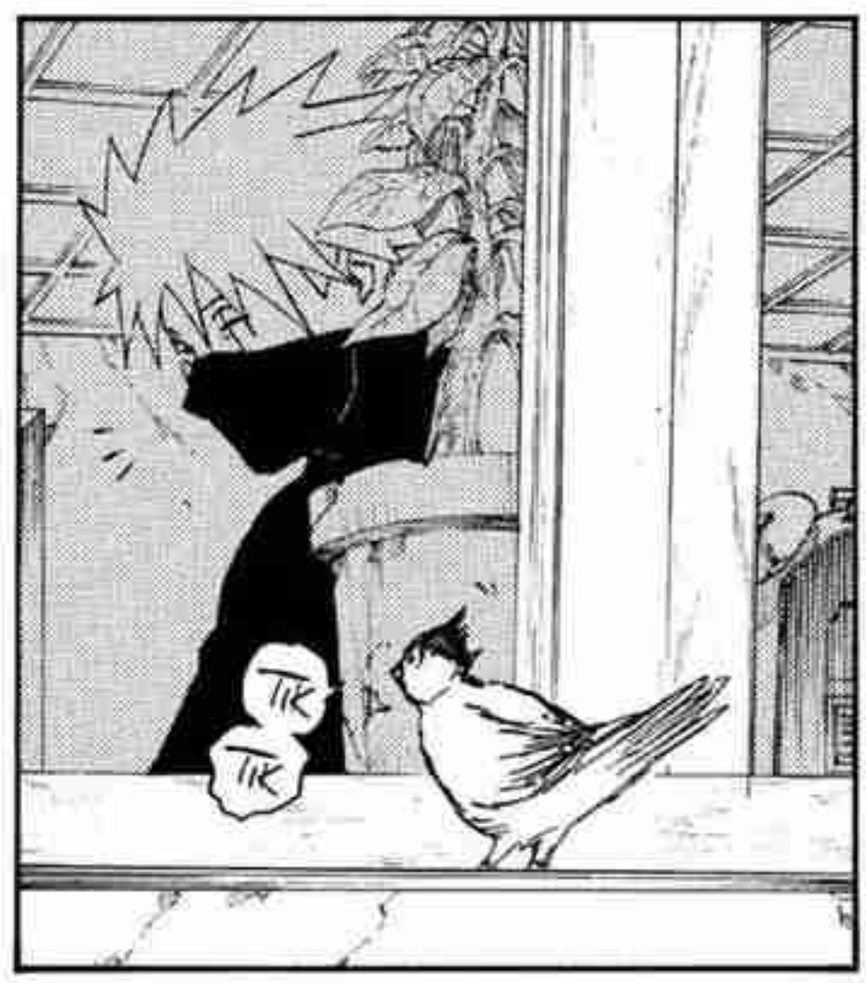

SASUKE ...
...?!

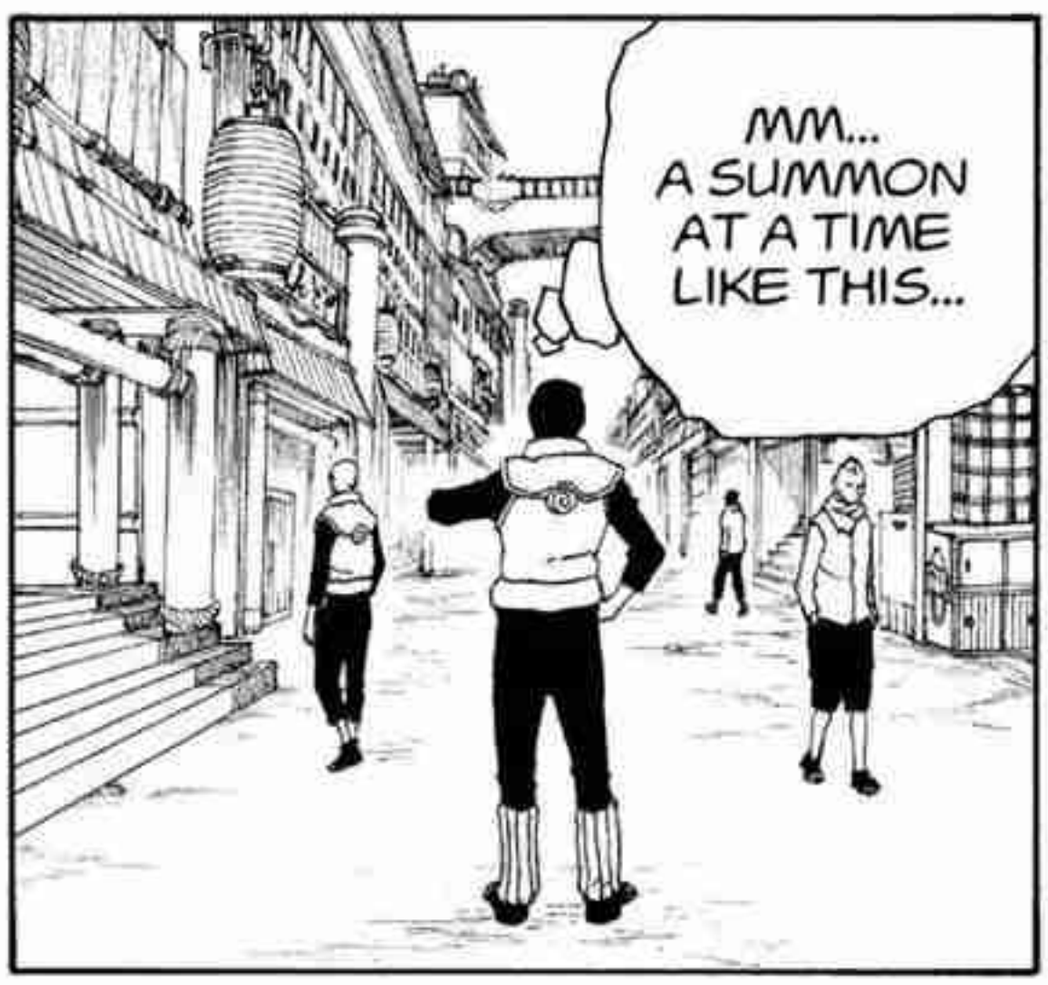
THE TIME IS NOW...

TO KONOHA.

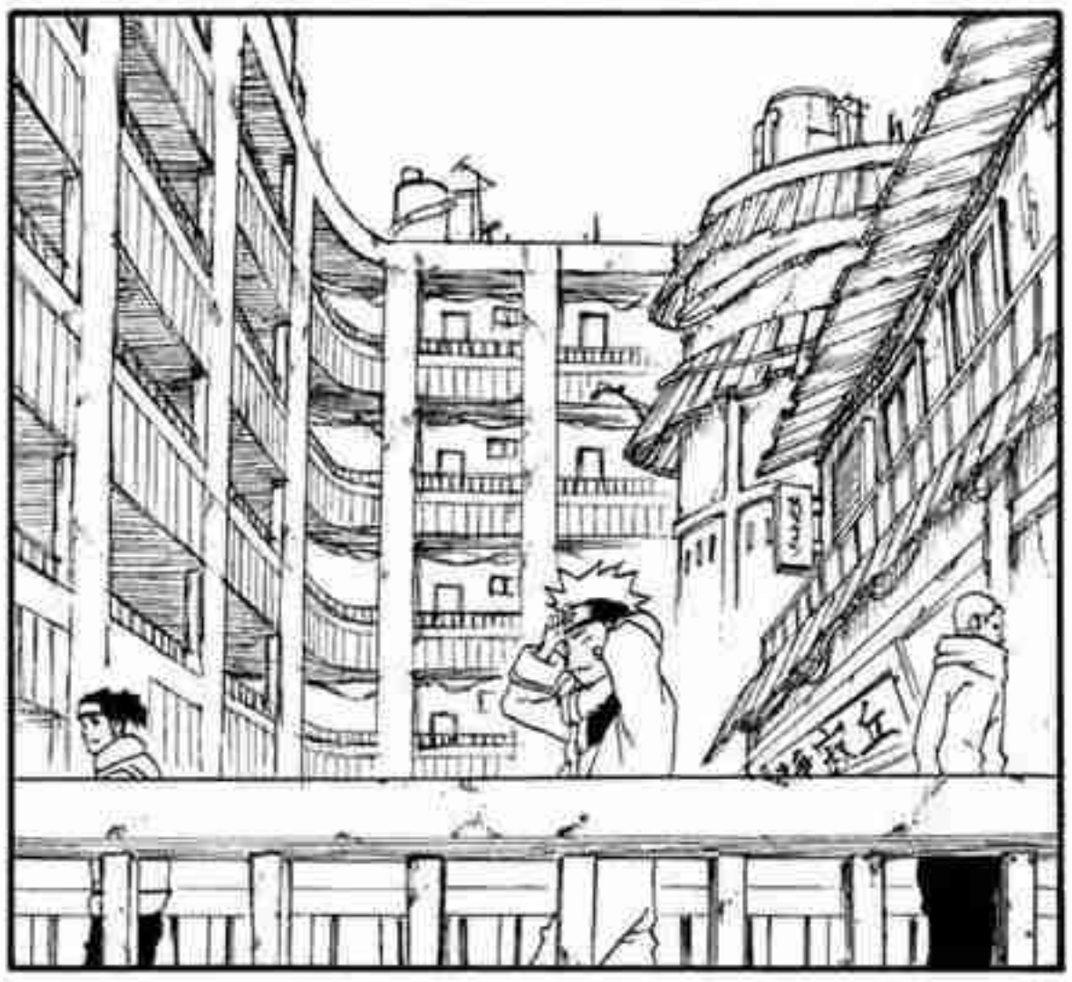
Number 174: Feelings...!

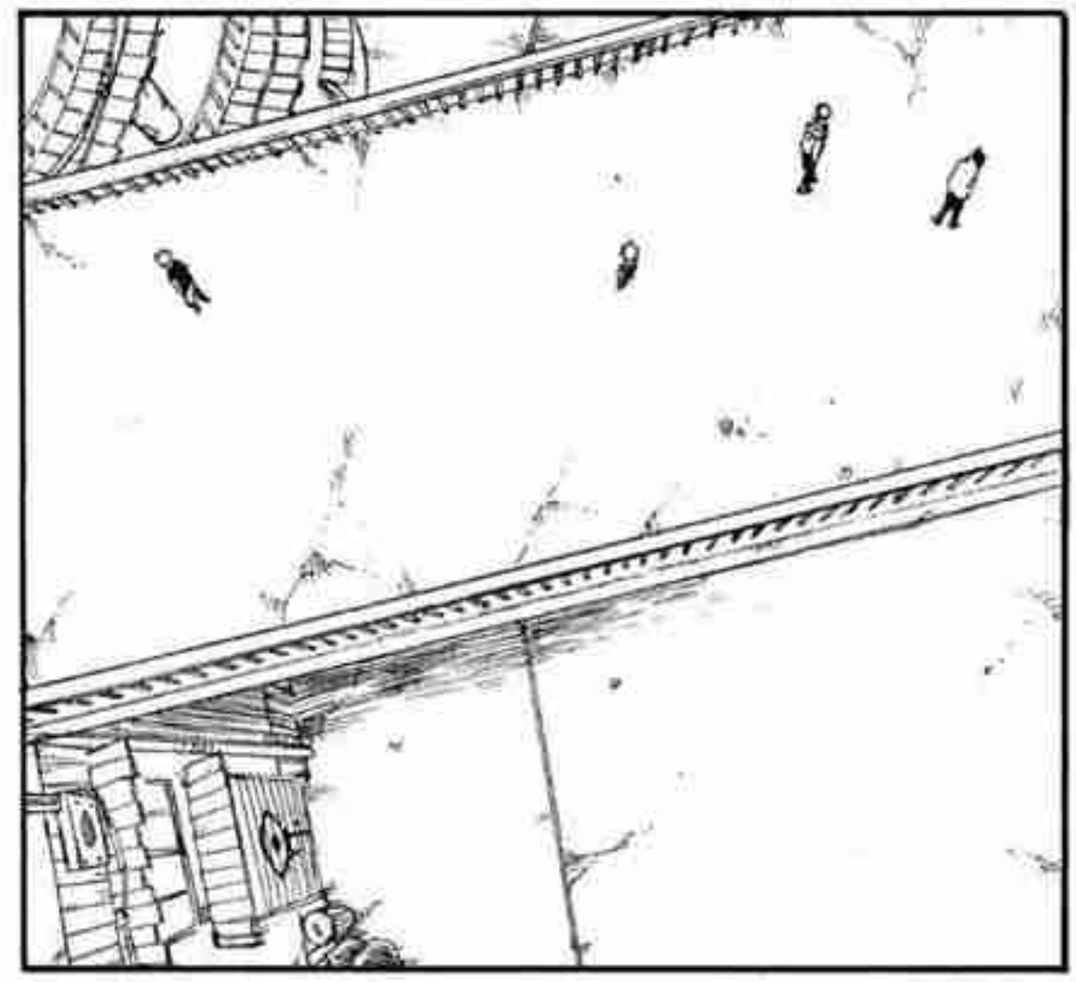
SIGH...
A MISSION
ALREADY HUH.


TIK
TIK


MM...
A SUMMON
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS...

!
FWOOSH
TIP





KWIT

MM?
SLURP SLURP
NARU-TO.

!

YOU'VE GROWN A LOT SINCE THE DAYS WHEN YOU FIRST WANTED...
...ONE OF THESE...
KWIT
...

I TOTALLY LOOK GOOD IN MY HEADBAND...

...THAT YOU GAVE ME, MASTER IRUKA?!

YEAH?! REALLY?!

YOU THINK SO?

BUT WE STILL HAVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF WORK, IF NOT MORE.
WE LOST A LOT OF SHINOBI, INCLUDING THE THIRD HOKAGE... WE'RE AT HALF THE STRENGTH WE ONCE HAD.

NARUTO...
KONOHA'S IN BIG TROUBLE.

IF WE TURN DOWN A MISSION...
...IT'S LIKE SAYING THE VILLAGE IS WEAK.
WE CAN'T.
KONOHA'S ALWAYS KEPT THE BALANCE OF POWER.
WHY?
JUST TURN MISSIONS DOWN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE.

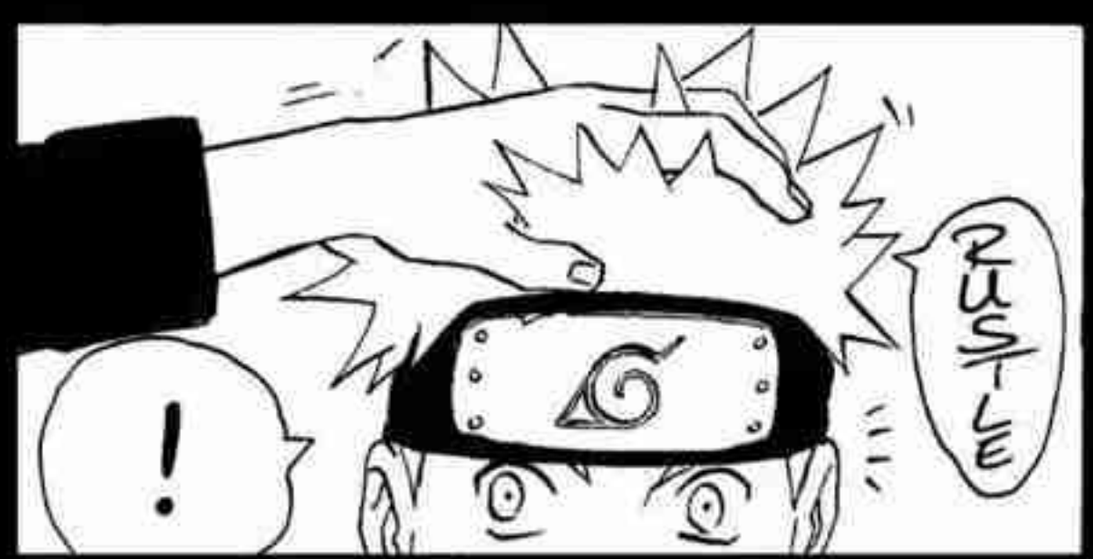
I BET EVEN KAKASHI, WHO'S JUST RECOVERING, WILL BE DISPATCHED SOON.

EVEN I'M GOING ON MISSIONS.
WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, EVEN THE ACADEMY'S CLOSED...

とんこつ ハロ
ねぎ 七五
みそ 七五
MM...
I HAD NO IDEA...
GUESS THINGS REALLY ARE ROUGH...
しお
しょうゆ
IF YOU REALLY THINK YOU LOOK GOOD IN THAT HEADBAND...
...YOU GOTTA FULFILL MISSIONS.
DON'T THINK YOU'RE NOT A PART OF IT.

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU.
HA HA HA...

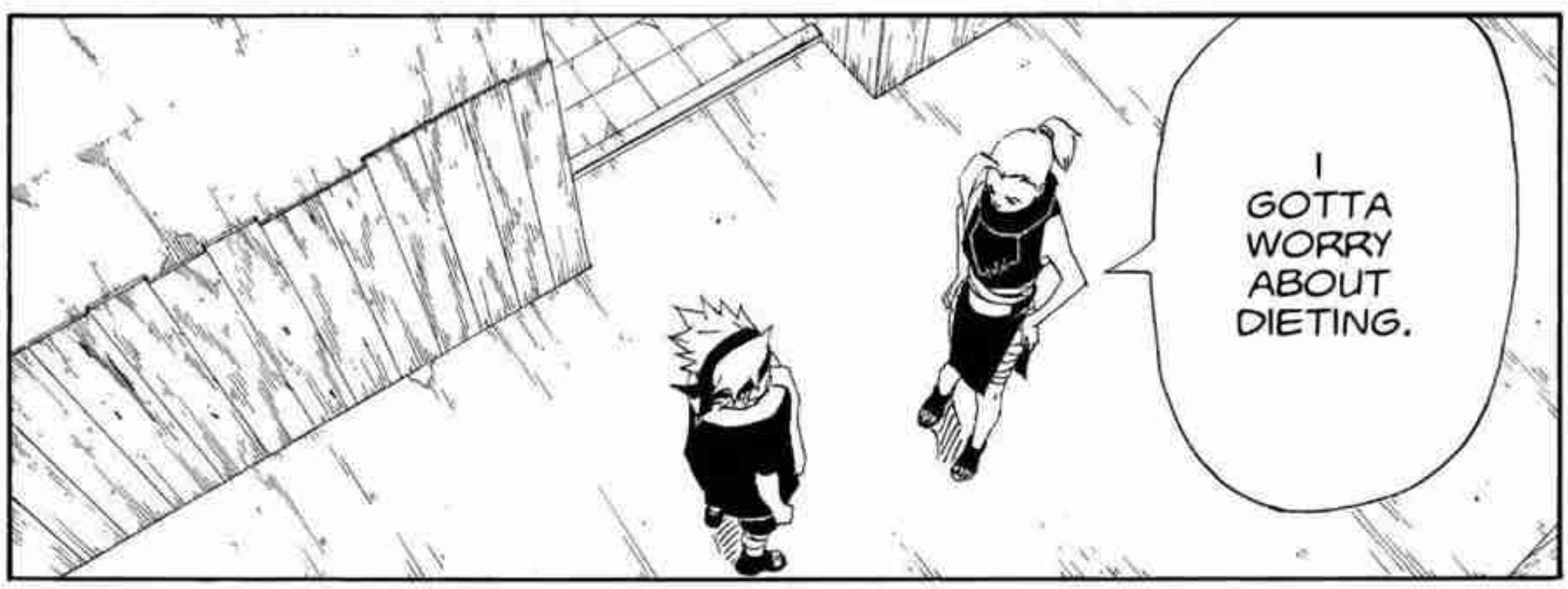
BUT I GOTTA EAT FIRST!
OKAY...!
SLURP SLURP


!
RUSTLE

GO GET 'EM!

READ THIS WAY
HEH...
HERE I COME!
ZSH
ALL RIGHT!

YOU CAN EAT ALL YOU WANT AND NOT WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE LUCKY CHOJI...
!
Splash Splash


I GOTTA WORRY ABOUT DIETING.

...

SERIOUSLY? YOU THINK THIS LOOK IS EASY TO KEEP UP?

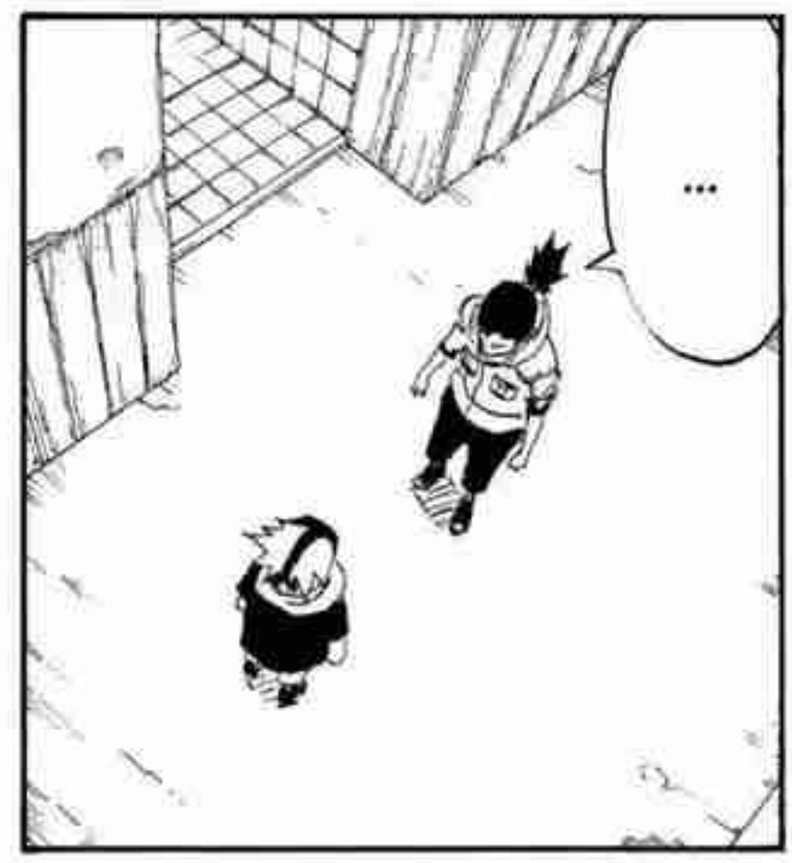
WHY?

READ THIS WAY
ZOOM
SNEER
AND...
THE OPPOSITE IS ALSO TRUE TOO.
NOT ALL BOYS LIKE SKINNY GIRLS.
HMPH... LISTEN, MOST BOYS HATE FAT... I MEAN... THEY LIKE SKINNY GIRLS.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, CHOJI. OR YOU WON'T GET ANY GIRLS.
!
HEH. SHE HAS NO CLUE.
ACTUALLY, MOST OF US LIKE 'EM A LITTLE MORE SUBSTANTIAL!
GUYS DON'T LIKE SKINNY GIRLS AS MUCH AS GIRLS THINK WE DO.

I BET SHE'D BE TWICE AS POPULAR.
INO SHOULD PUT ON A FEW MORE POUNDS INSTEAD OF DIETING.
HA HA!
Pffft

IN FACT, YOU KNOW WHAT?

AND YOU'RE SMART.
YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY, SHIKAMARU.
MM?


...

THAT YOU'RE WAY MORE AMAZING
THAN SASUKE OR THAT NEJI GUY.
I KNOW...

THINK ABOUT IT...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO BECAME A CHÛNIN AFTER THIS LAST CHÛNIN EXAM...

I'M JUST ME...
REALLY...? THAT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND.

I MIGHT'VE GIVEN UP IF I WENT AGAINST YOU.
BUT IF WE WENT AT IT, YOU MIGHT BE STRONGER...
RIGHT?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT ASUMA SAID.
JUST BE YOURSELF.

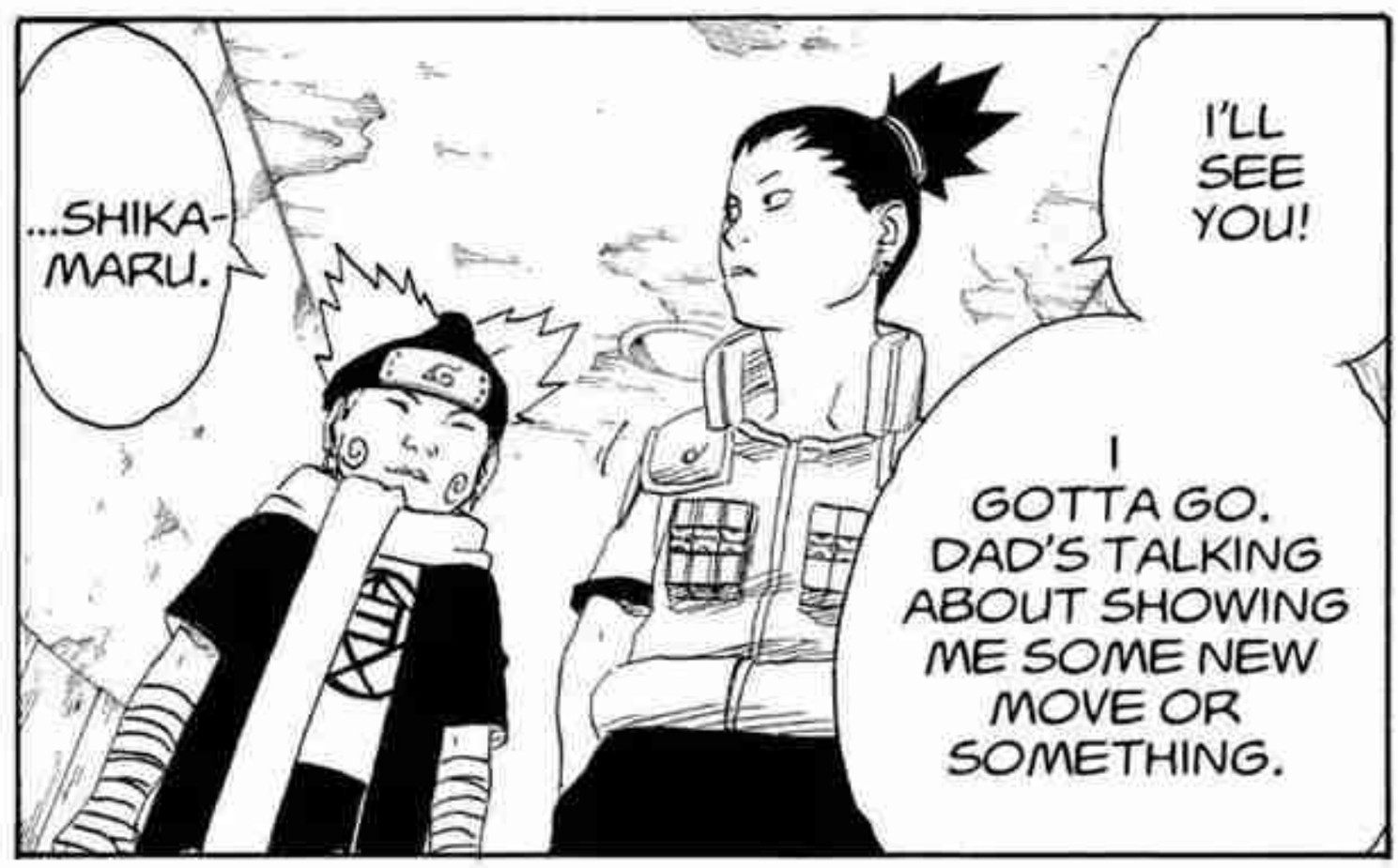
WHO'S THIS OR THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
...AND YOU'RE YOU.

BUT ASUMA JUST TOLD ME THAT ALL I DO IS EAT...
LIKE I SAID, I'M ME.

GRIN

...

...MM?


...SHIKA-MARU.
I'LL SEE YOU!
I GOTTA GO. DAD'S TALKING ABOUT SHOWING ME SOME NEW MOVE OR SOMETHING.

WHAT, MAN?
...

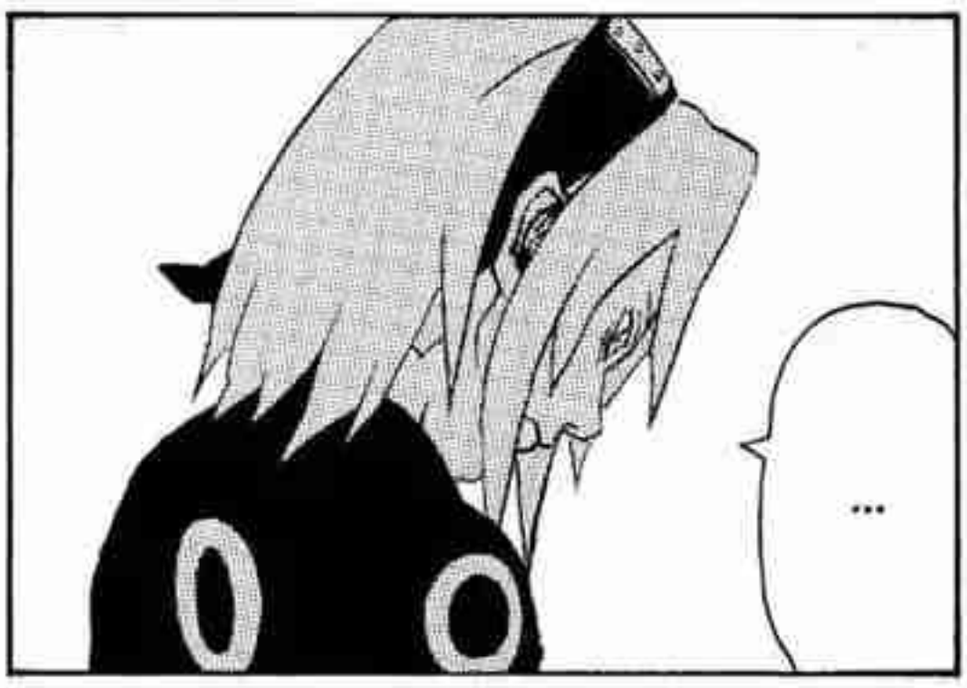
...

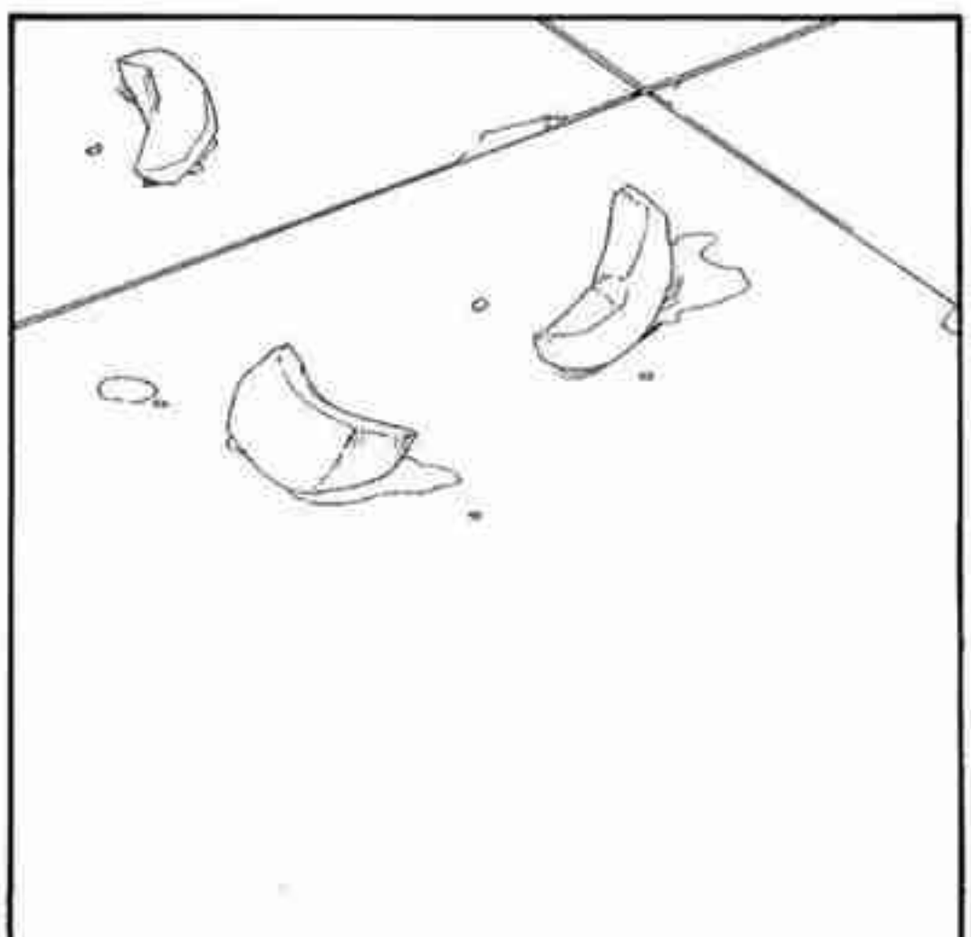
...

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR TRAINING.
HEH...

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY ...CHOJI...

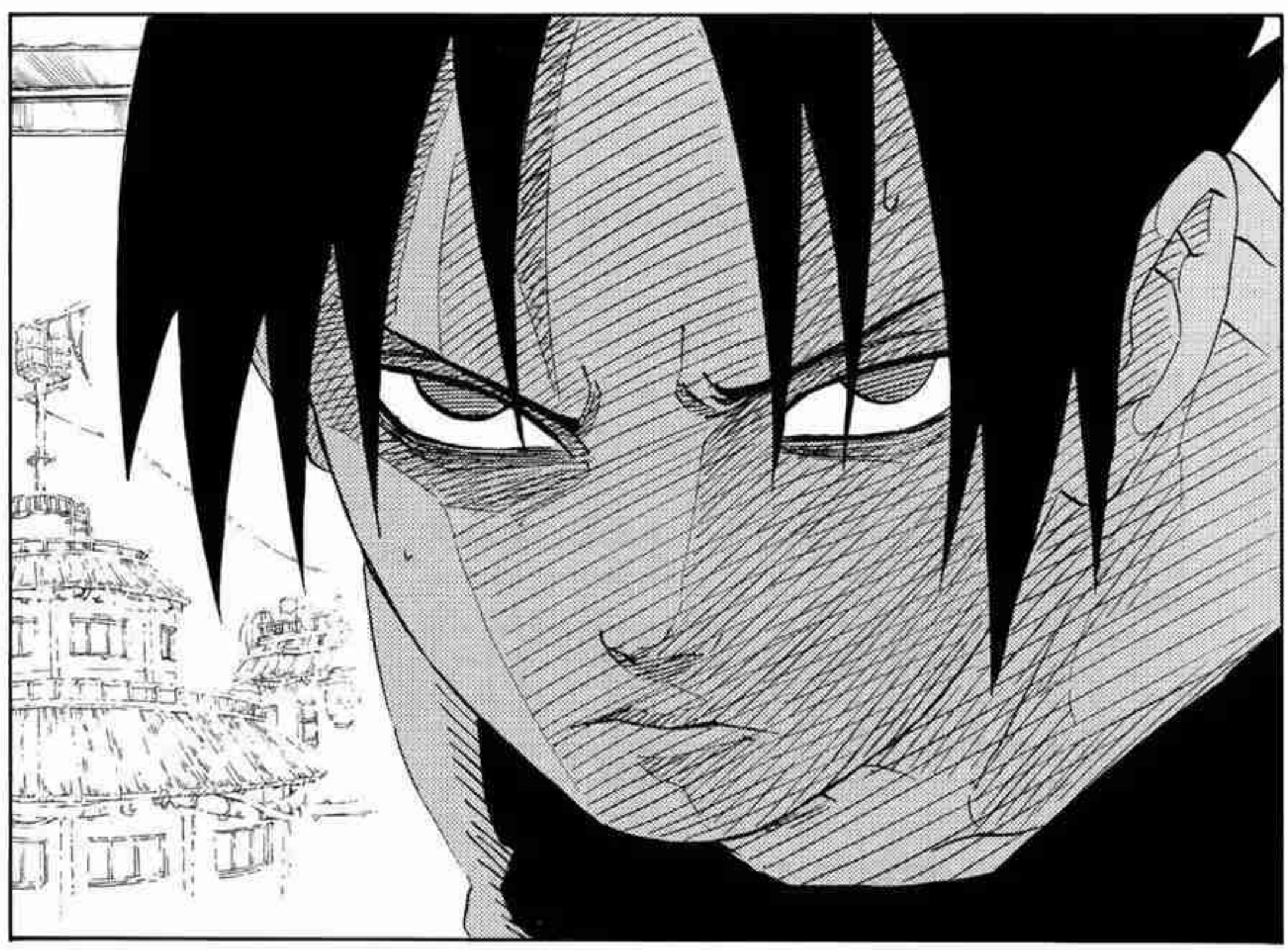
...THANKS.

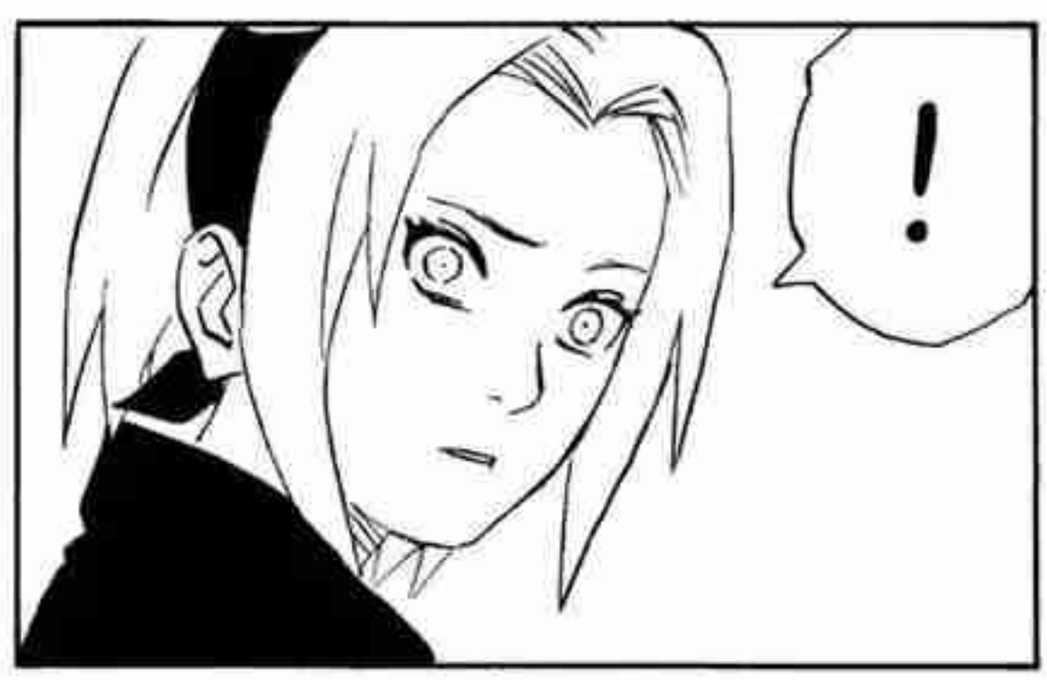




!

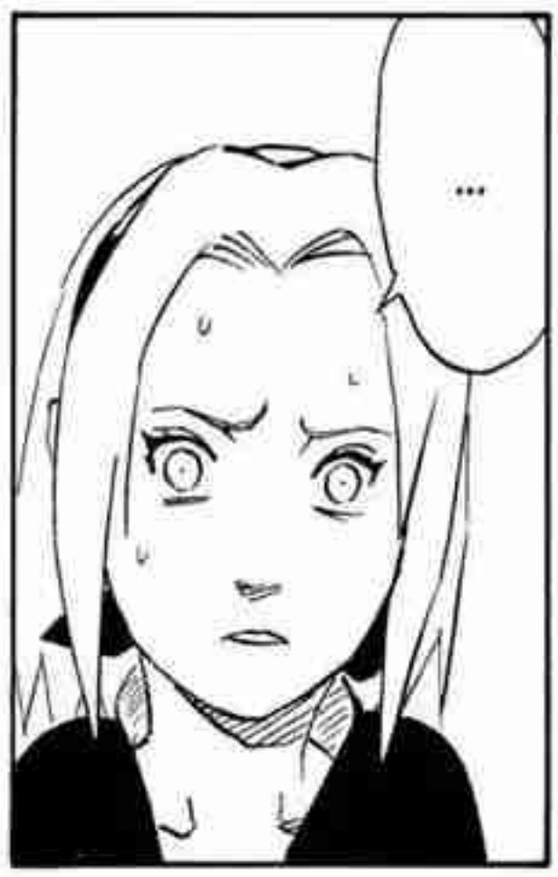
...?!




!

WH-
WHAT?!

...NARUTO.


...

WH-
WHY YOU
STARIN'
AT ME
LIKE
THAT?

...ME!
FIGHT...

WH-
WHAT?!

YOU'RE STILL
RECOVERING.
WHAT'RE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
HUNH?!

!

SHUT UP AND FIGHT ME!!

SASUKE...!
!

!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER.
I DON'T CARE IF SHE'S THE FIFTH HOKAGE...

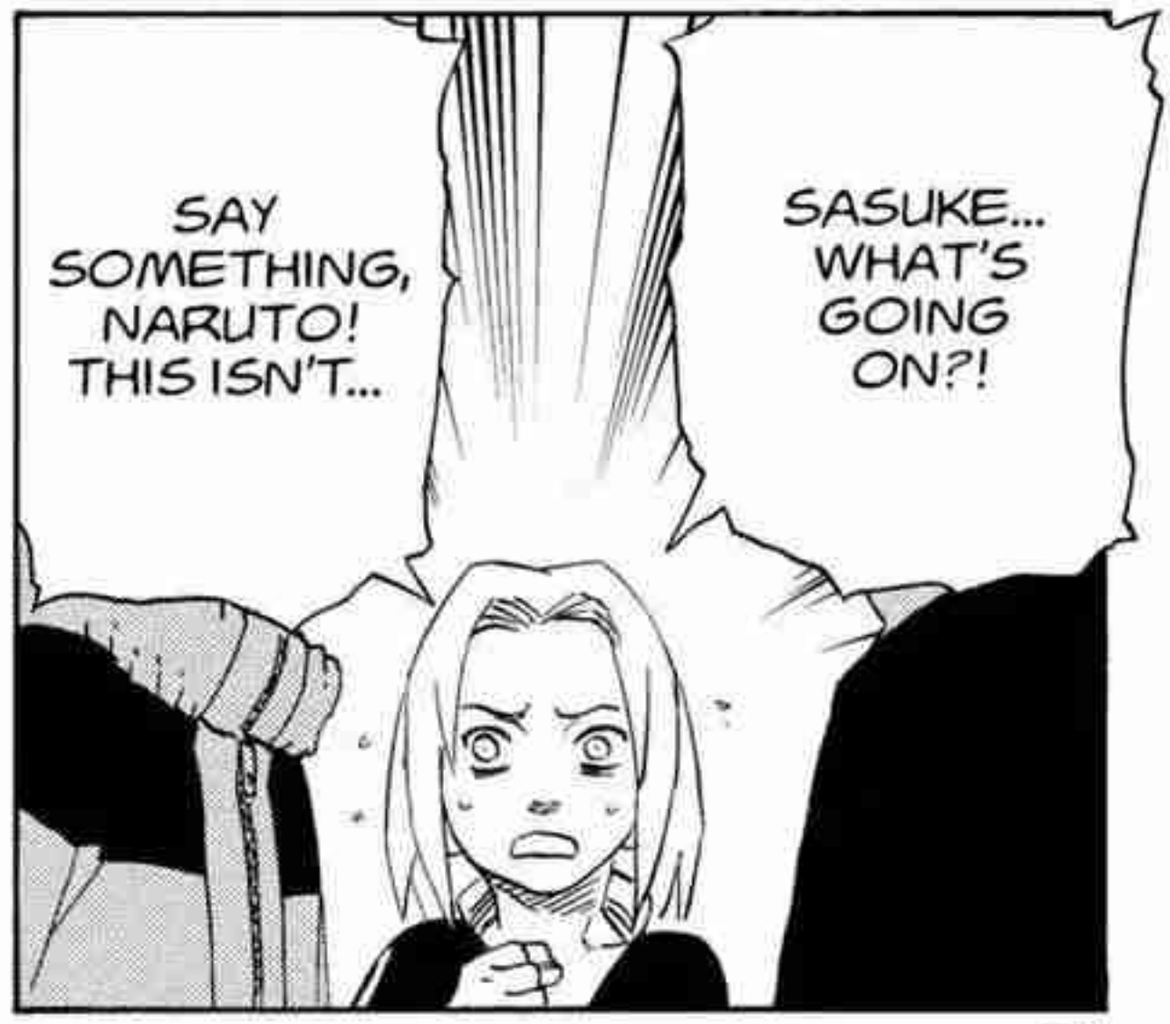
I KNOW HE'S THE ONE YOU'RE REALLY AFTER.

YOU THINK YOU SAVED ME?

TUP

GO AWAY... I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN YOU!

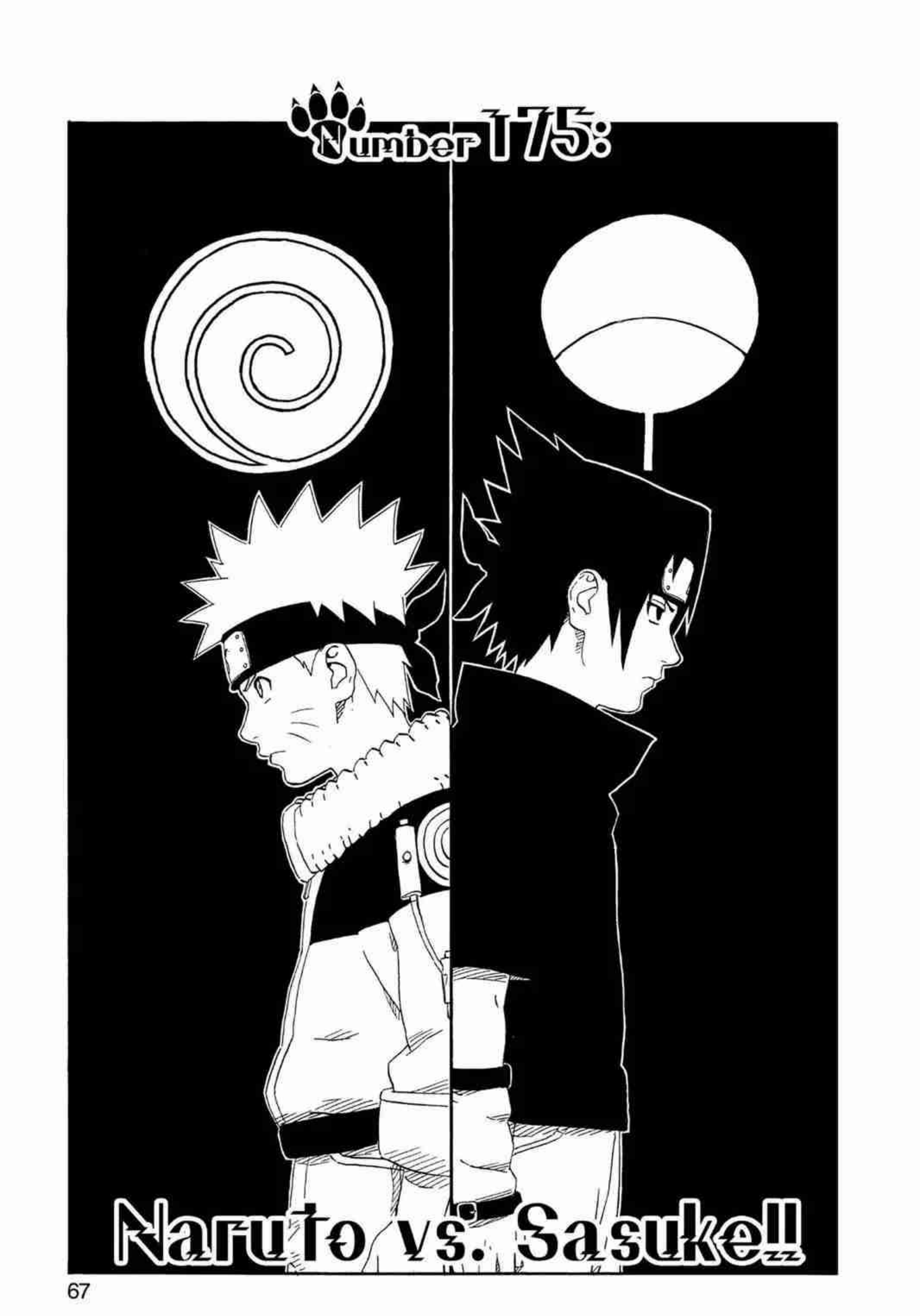
WHAT?!


SAY SOMETHING, NARUTO! THIS ISN'T...
SASUKE... WHAT'S GOING ON?!

I WANNA FIGHT YOU TOO...
...THE TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER!

Congratulations on your marriage and 4 YearAnniversary. Please take good care of yourself.

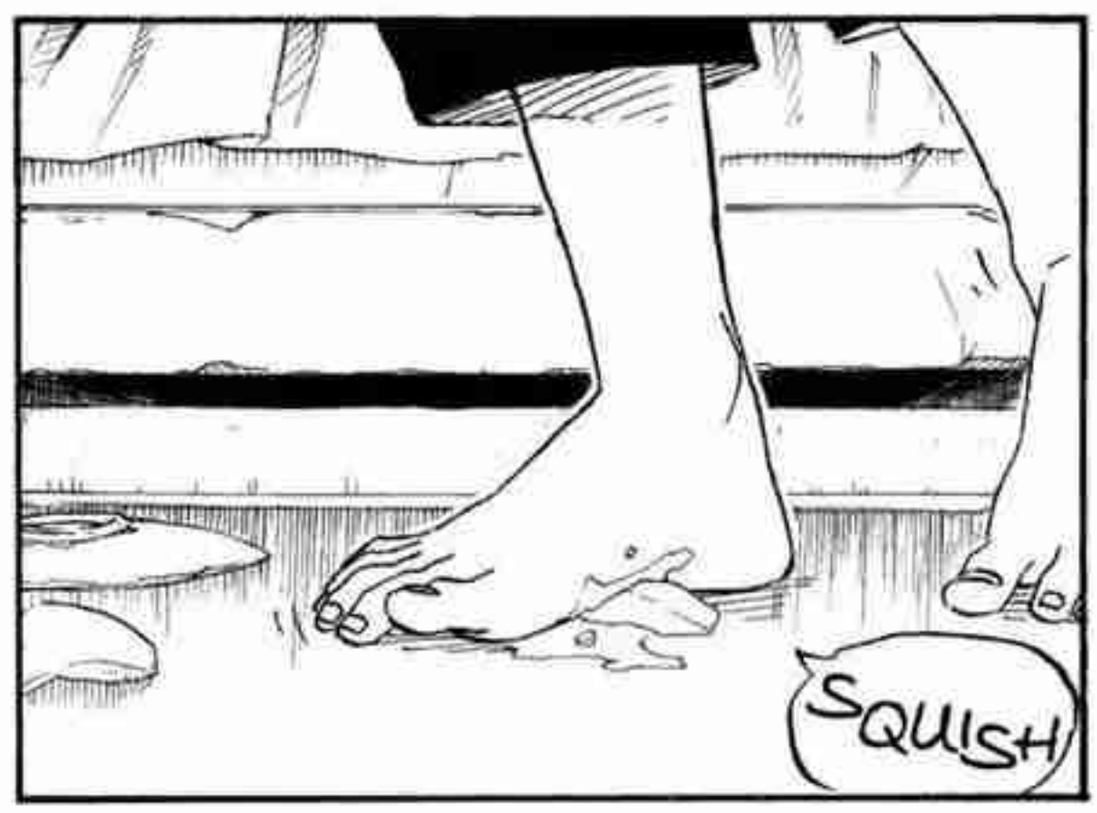
田坂 亮
RYO TASAKA

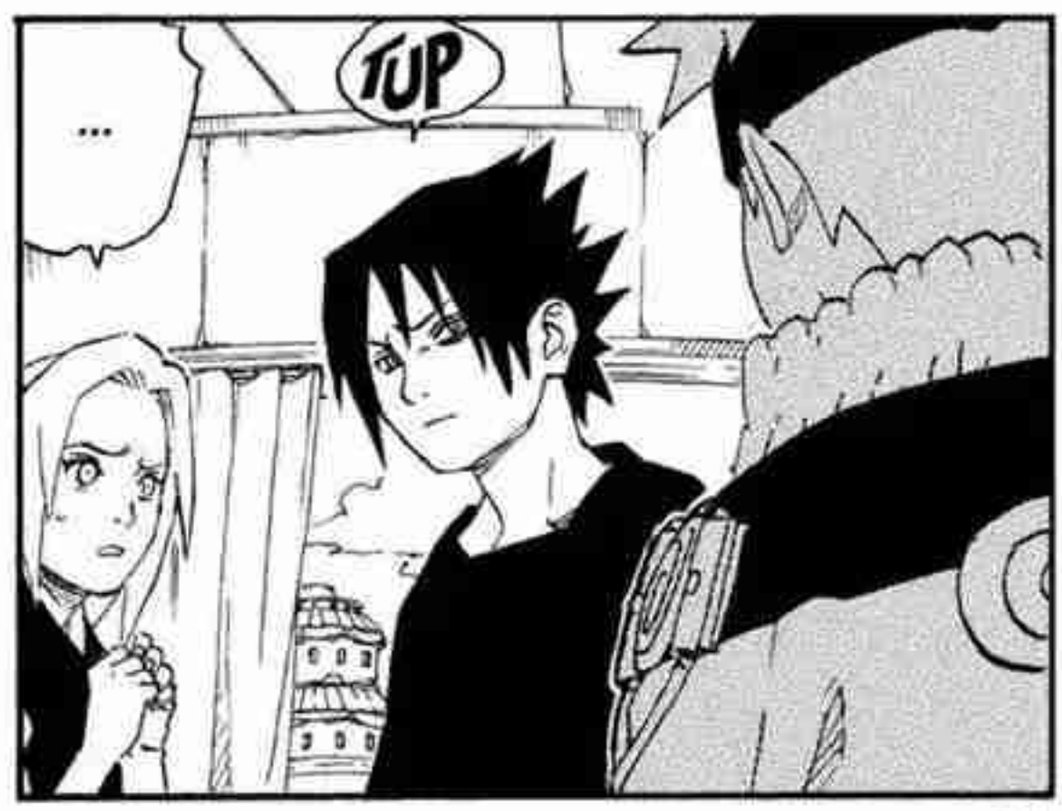

Number 175:
Naruto vs. Sasuke!!

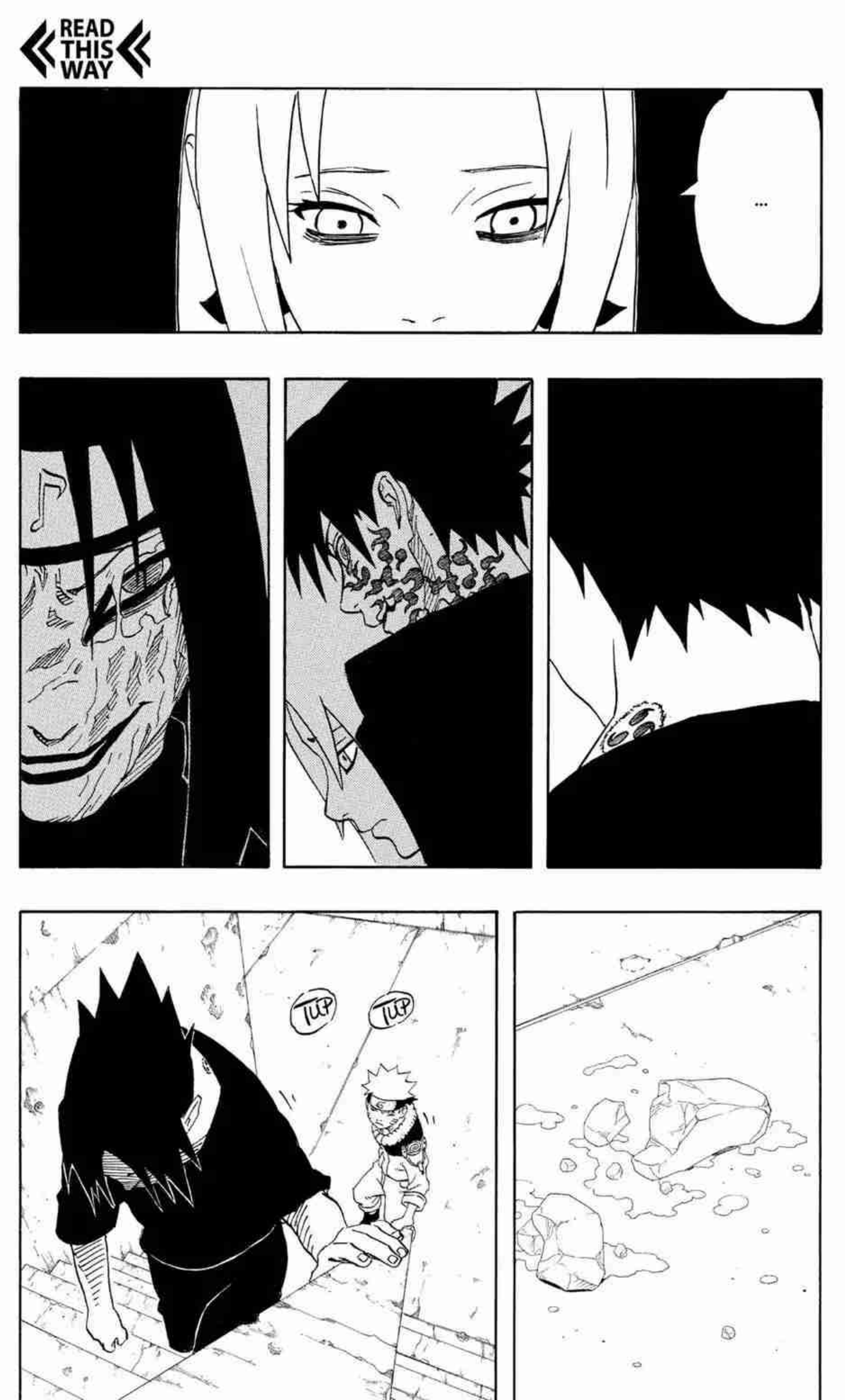
HMPH!!
!

FWIP
COME WITH ME.

PLEASE.
CUT IT OUT YOU TWO.


SQUISH


...
TUP


READ THIS WAY
...
TUP
TUP

FWOOOO

KCHK

SSH

HUNH

...

YOU'RE ONE OF THE ONES I WANT TO FIGHT...

...
WHAT IS THIS FEELING... MY STOMACH FEELS TIGHT.

AND... I'M GETTING CHILLS.
HA!

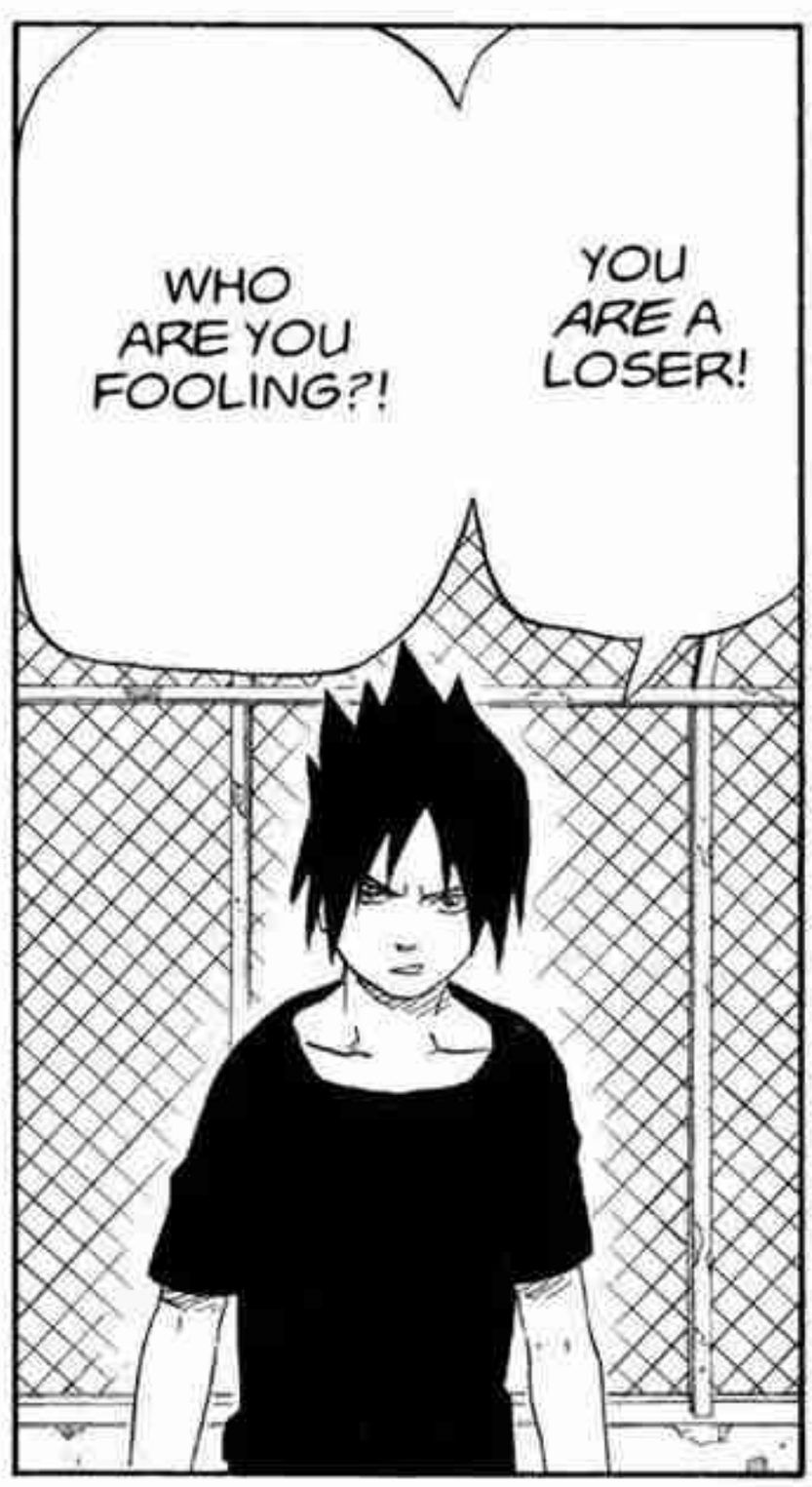
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

TWITCH

TO THINK... I CAN FINALLY...
...BEAT YOU!

I'M JUST HAPPY.
NOTHING'S FUNNY.
!

...IS THE SUPREME ORDER GIVEN UNTO US BY THE AKATSUKI.
...TO TAKE NARUTO WITH US...


WHO ARE YOU FOOLING?!
YOU ARE A LOSER!

GO AWAY... I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN YOU!

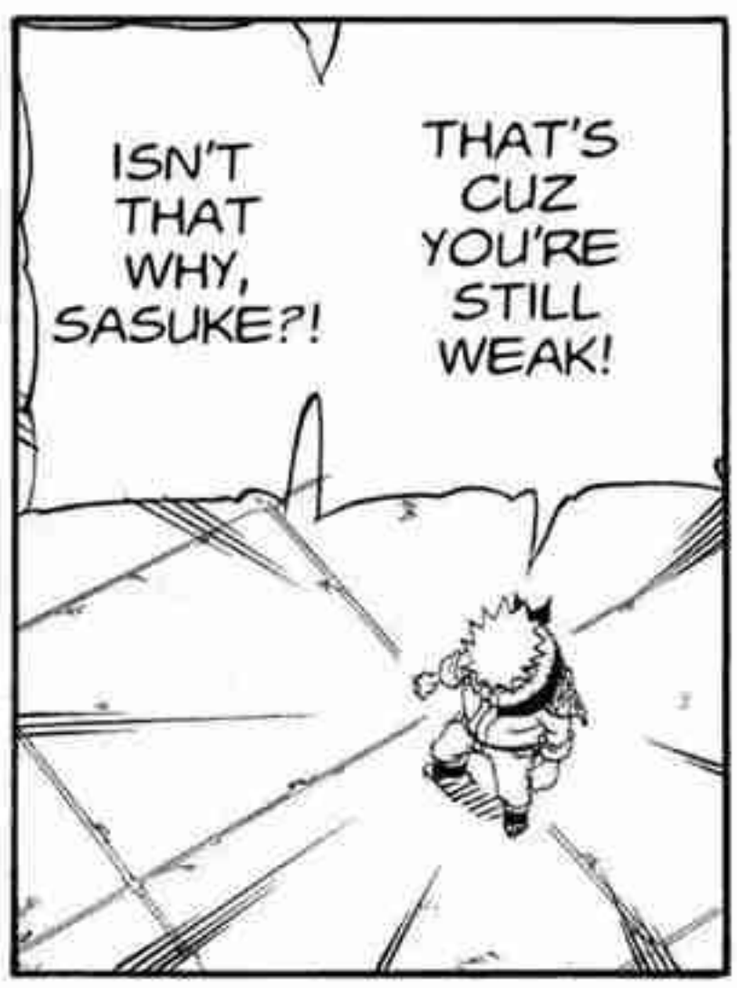
SOUNDS LIKE SOME-THING A LOSER WOULD SAY FOR SURE.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?
...SLOWING EVERYBODY DOWN.
I WON'T ALWAYS BE THE LOSER...

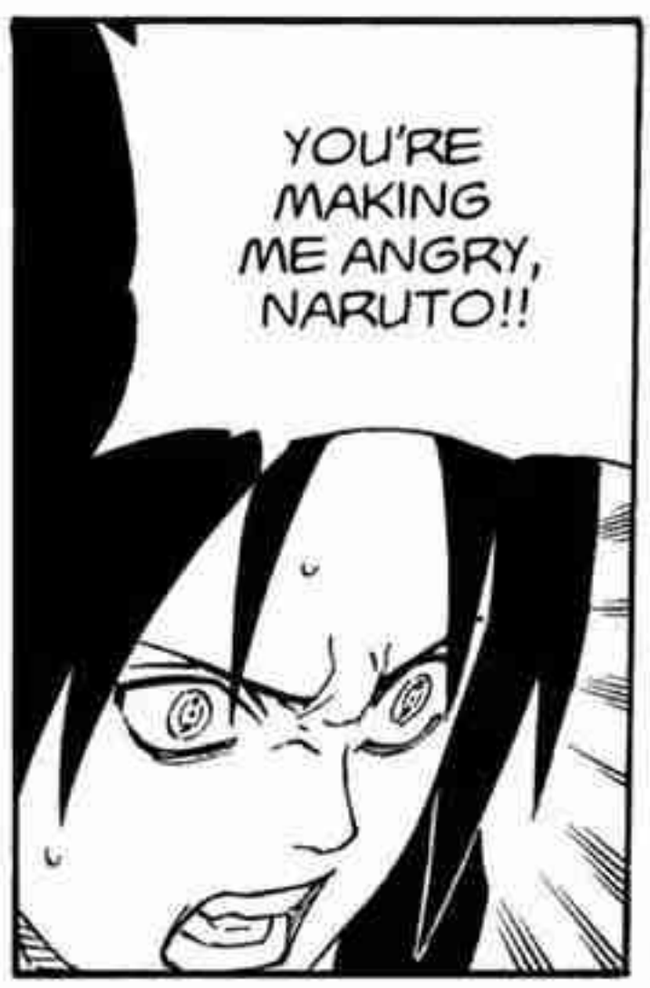
READ THIS WAY
SHUT UP AND BRING IT!
...ARE YOU REGRETTING CALLING ME OUT?
HUH SASUKE...?
HEH... YOU'RE TALKING A LOT OF TRASH, SASUKE.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
JUST PUT IT ON!!
I DON'T NEED IT...
PUT ON YOUR HEADBAND FIRST. I'LL WAIT.
YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO PUT A SCRATCH ON MY FOREHEAD!

THIS IS THE SYMBOL OF TWO KONOHA SHINOBI...

...FIGHTING AS EQUALS!

THAT'S NOT WHY!!





NARUTO!!

SASUKE!!

FSH
ESH
WSH
BSH
BSH
BSH
FWAP
ZAP

FWIP
!
ZSSSH
!!

TAJÛ KAGE-BUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS!!

BOOM
!
WSH
ZZZ
H
FWAK
AGH!

BOOM!!

BOOF GAK

UGH!!

THWACK
!
POOF
POOF
FWAK
MA!
KI!
U!
ZU!

READ THIS WAY
!
GAK
NARUTO BARRAGE!
FWIP
!!
FWIP
THE SIGN OF THE TIGER!!
!
Pff

BOOM

GÔKAKYÛ NO JUTSU! FIRE BALL TECHNIQUE!!

FIRE STYLE!!

WHOOF

UGH!!

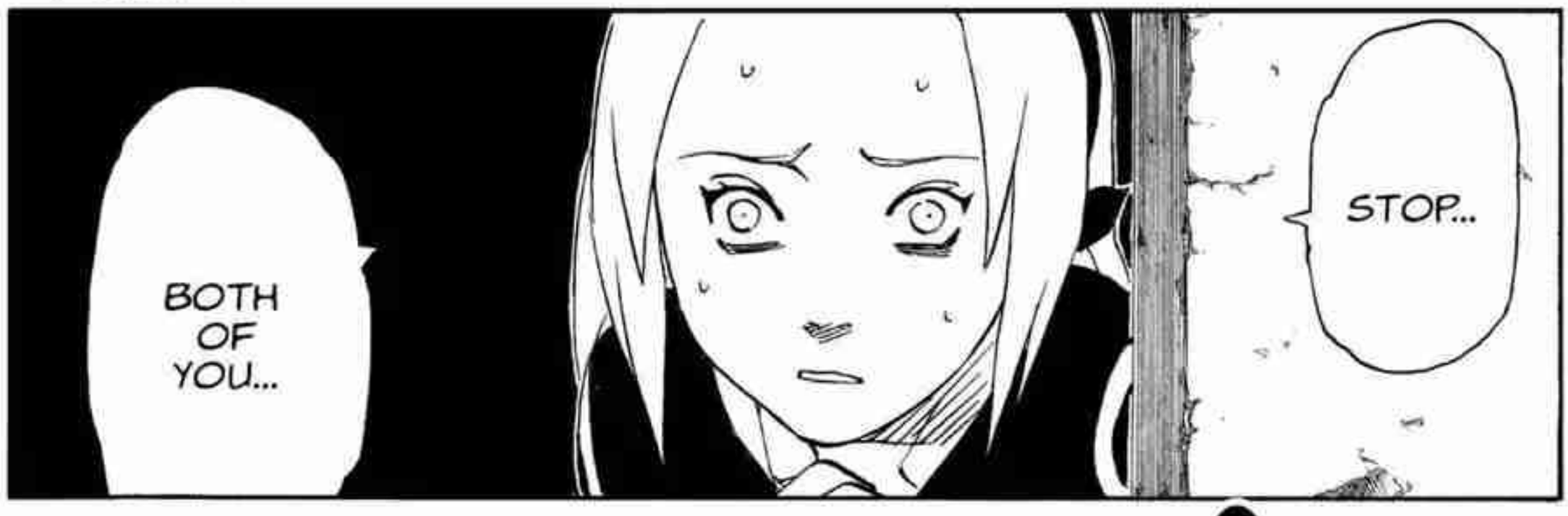
HOT!

!

AAAA
RROOAA

ROAAAR

FW
TAKE THIS!
PIIIW
IP
KRAAAK
CHIDORI! 1000 BIRDS!!


BOTH OF YOU...
STOP...

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

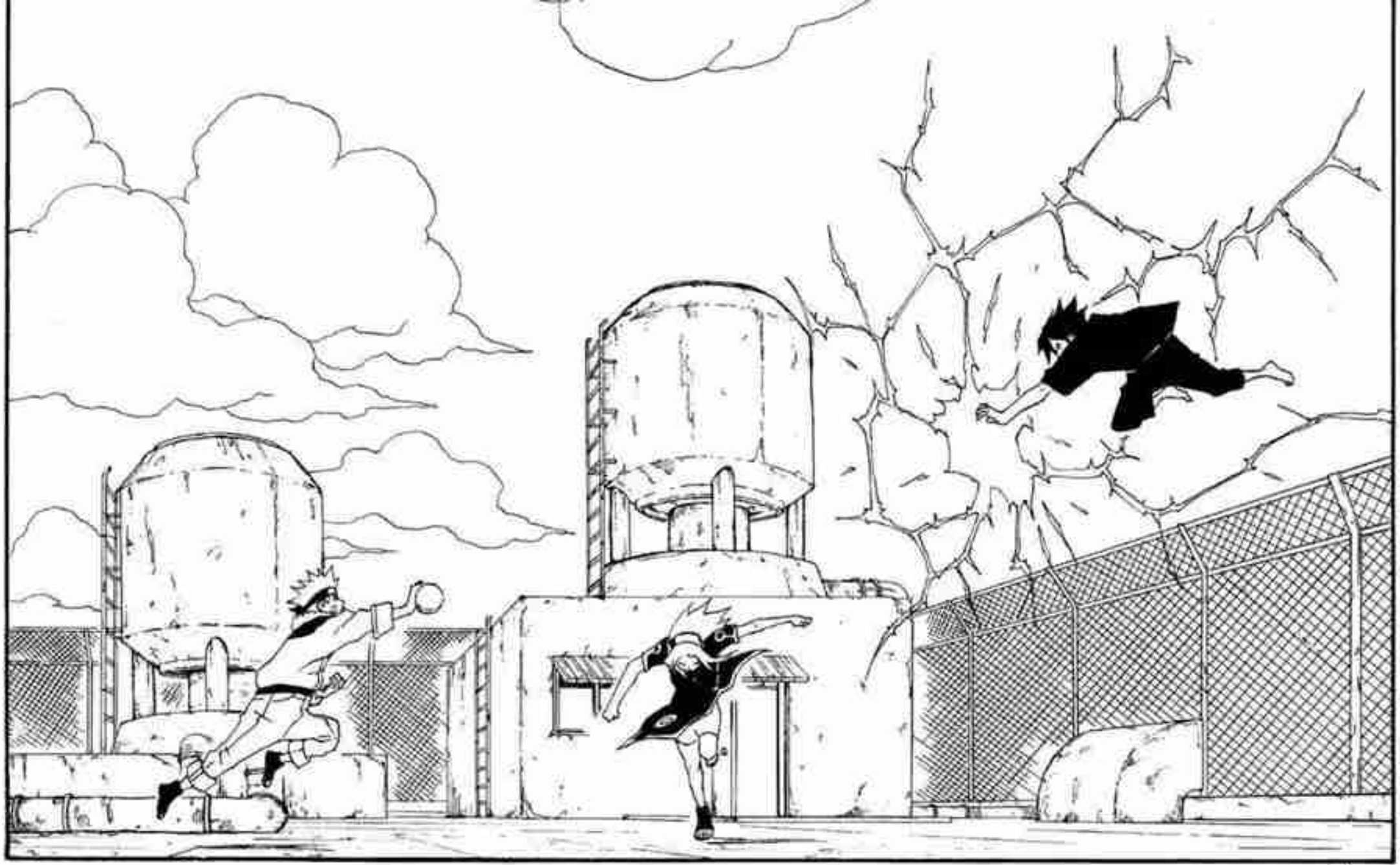
STOP!!

にしやん！ Nishiyan!

Number 176:

Rivals

PIIW
KSUZZ
!!



STOP!!
BOTH OF YOU!

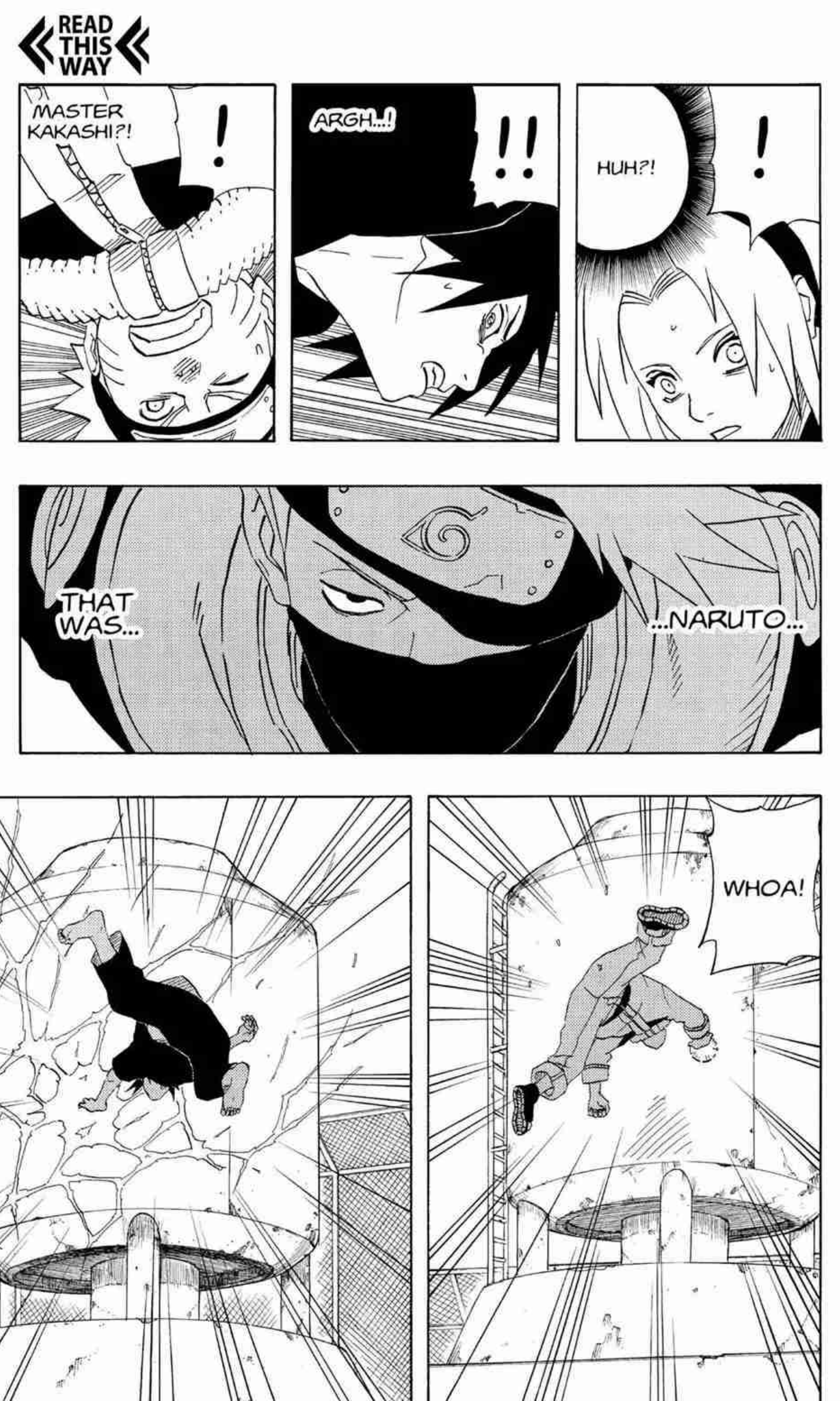
I CAN'T STOP NOW!

NO!

PAK

PAK

WHAT !!!
WAP!
ぶらっ


READ THIS WAY
MASTER KAKASHI?!
!
ARGH...!
!!
HUH?!
!
THAT WAS...
...NARUTO...
WHOA!

FWAM

UGH!!

!

FWA

OW!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TWO?

THAT WAS A LITTLE MUCH FOR JUST A FIGHT.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING UP HERE?

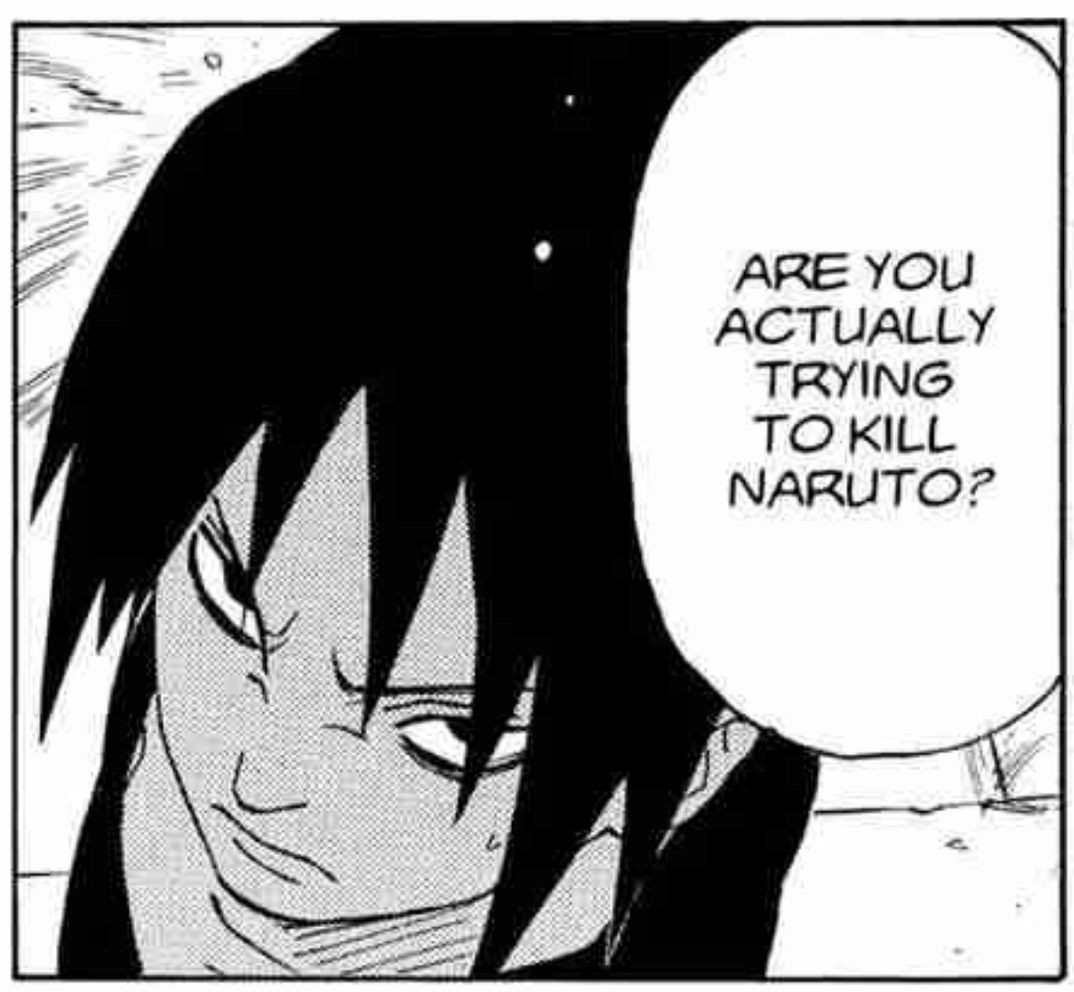
ARGH...

GUH...

READ THIS WAY

...!

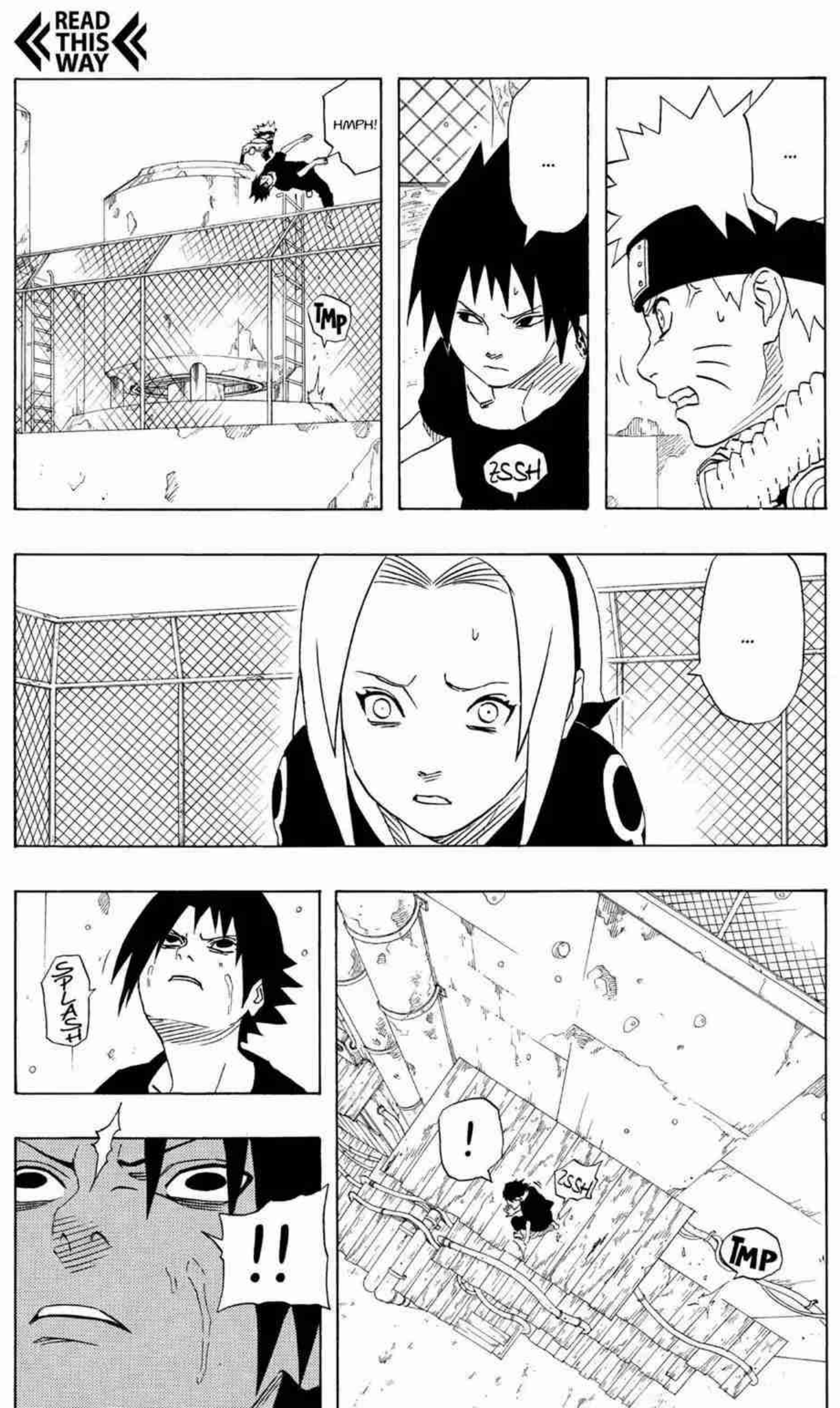
...WASN'T THE SIZE YOU'D AIM AT A FRIEND FROM THE VILLAGE...
THAT CHIDORI...


ARE YOU ACTUALLY TRYING TO KILL NARUTO?

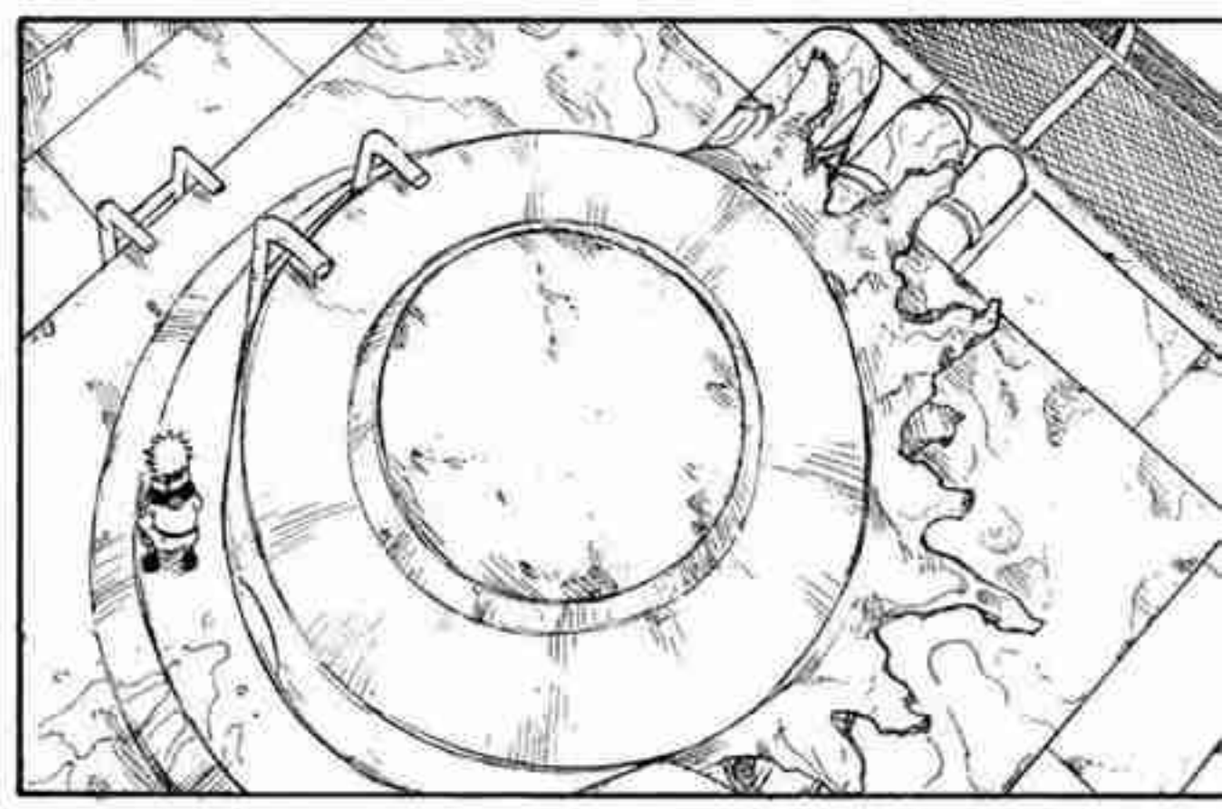
SASUKE... WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...?
!
GWF GWF GWF

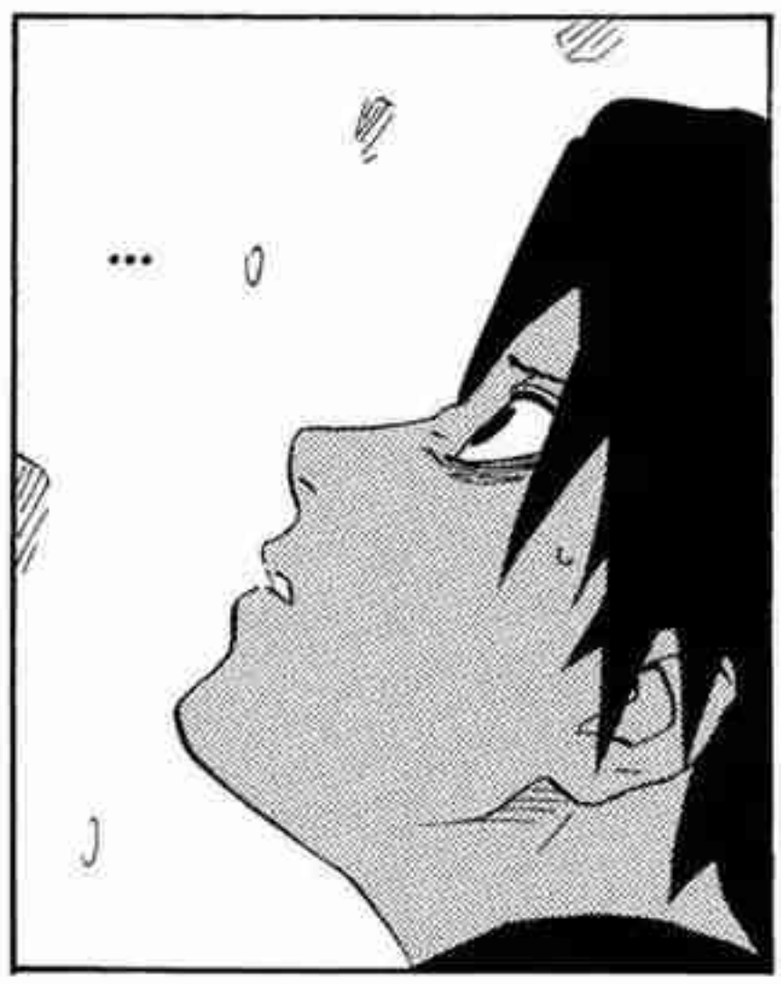
WHAT IS THIS...
DID HE REUNITE WITH ITACHI...?

!


READ THIS WAY
HMPH!
TMP
...
ZSSH
...
...
SPLASH
!!
!
ZSSH
TMP

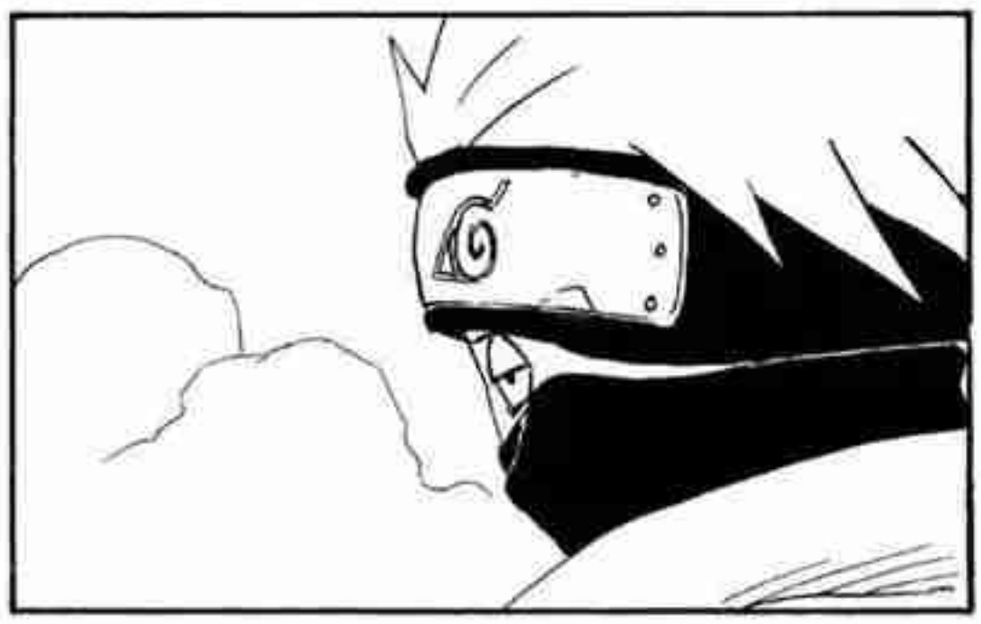
WHAT HAPPENED?!
WHAT IS THAT...




...

Bo

OM



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM...?
SIGH...

sniffle
sniffle
MASTER KAKASHI...
U-UH... UH

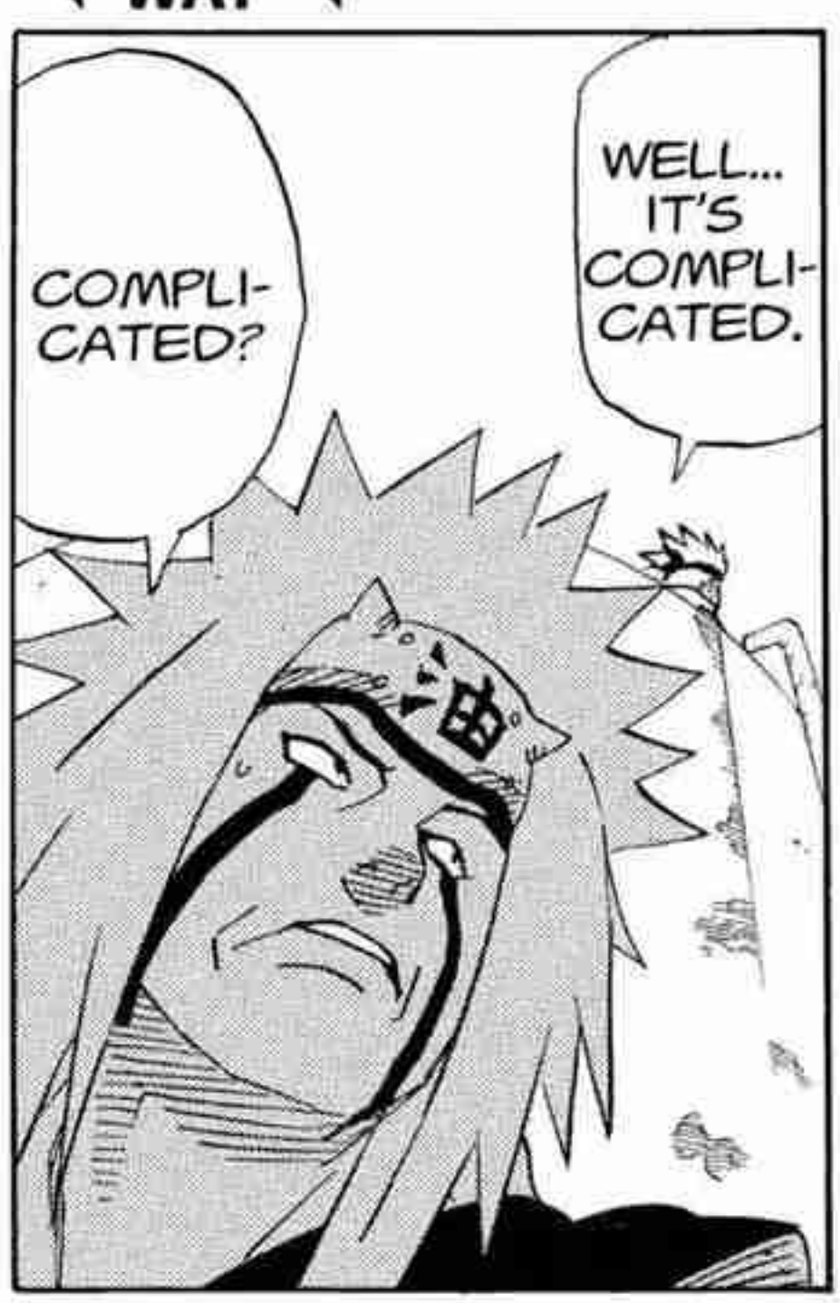
...TO HANDLE IT.
NARUTO IS TOO YOUNG...
WAS IT YOU... WHO TAUGHT HIM THAT TECHNIQUE?

LOOK WHO'S TALKING...
THAT CHIDORI WAS PRETTY POWERFUL TOO...
EVEN TO USE AGAINST THE AKATSUKI... THAT TECHNIQUE IS...

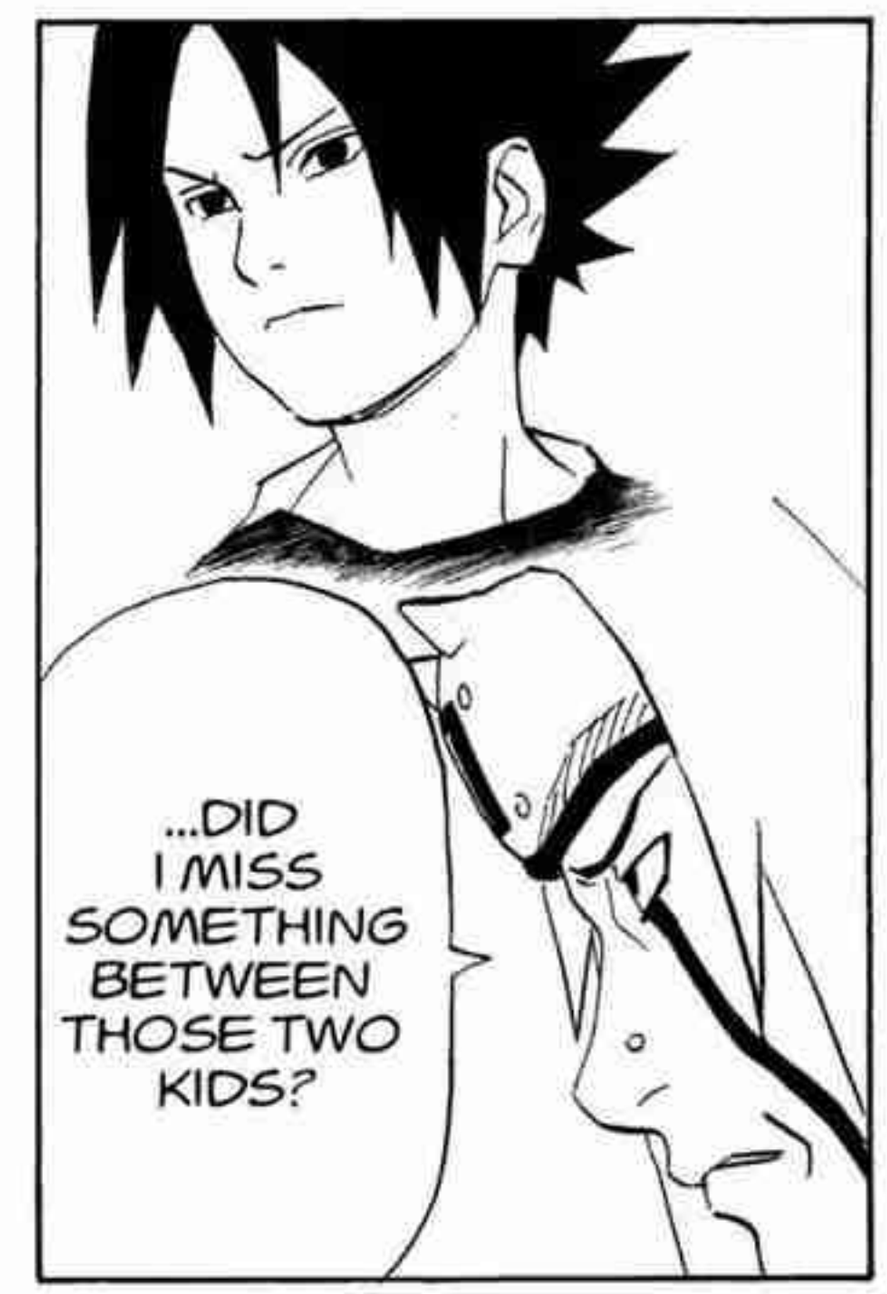
HE COULD'VE KILLED SASUKE...

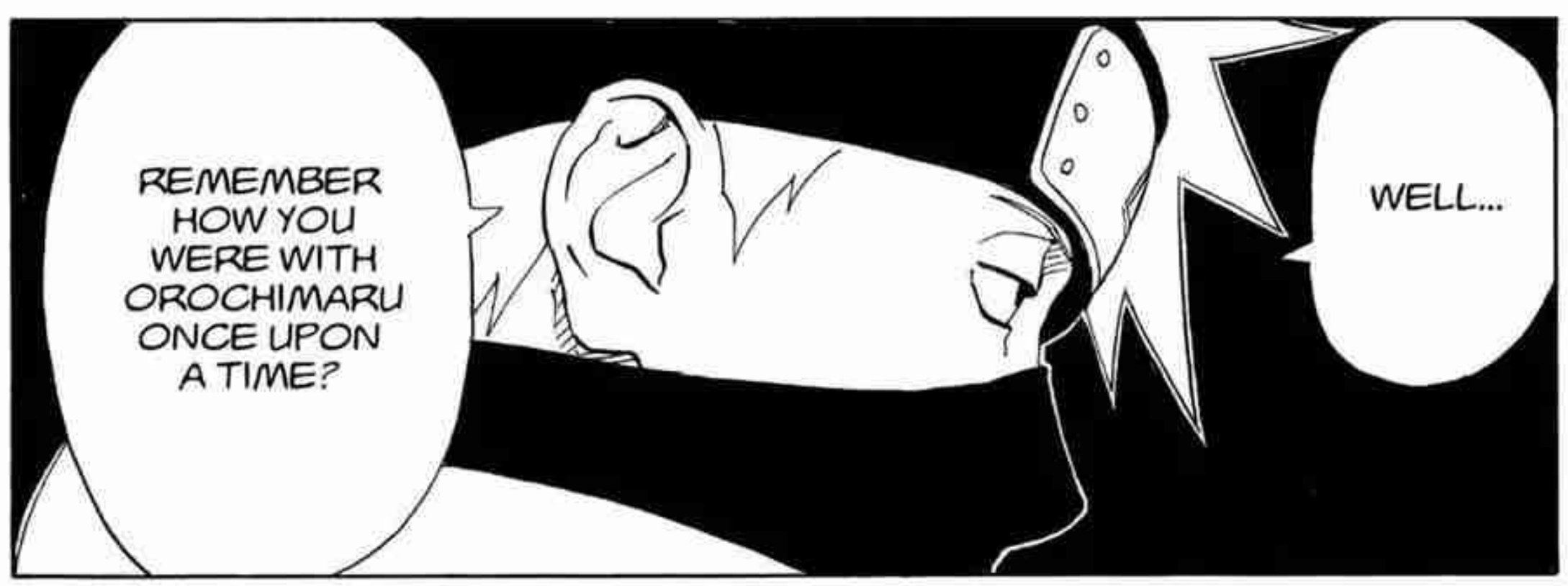
THOUGH I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD...
...THROW IT AT A FRIEND.
...

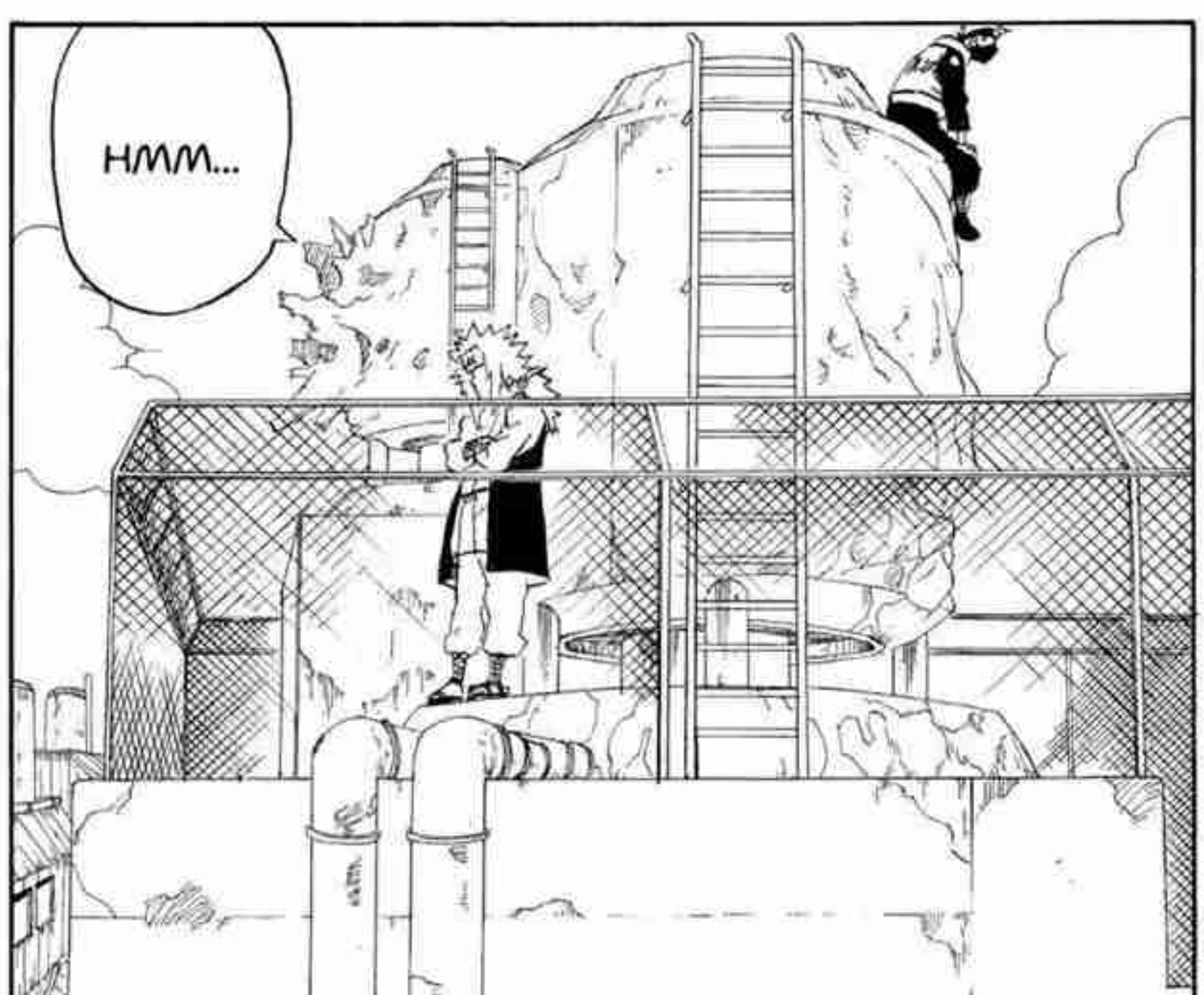
READ
THIS
WAY


COMPLI-
CATED?
WELL... IT'S COMPLI-CATED.

...


...DID I MISS SOMETHING BETWEEN THOSE TWO KIDS?


REMEMBER HOW YOU WERE WITH OROCHIMARU ONCE UPON A TIME?
WELL...


HMM...

...

THEIR COMPETITION KEEPS THEM GOING.

NARUTO AND SASUKE ARE BOTH FRIENDS AND RIVALS...

NARUTO WANTS TO BE RECOGNIZED...

HE'S WANTED TO BE AS STRONG AS SASUKE...

...SINCE THEIR ACADEMY DAYS.

NARUTO COULDN'T TOLERATE SASUKE'S CHEAP PROVOCATIONS...

I'M GUESS-ING...

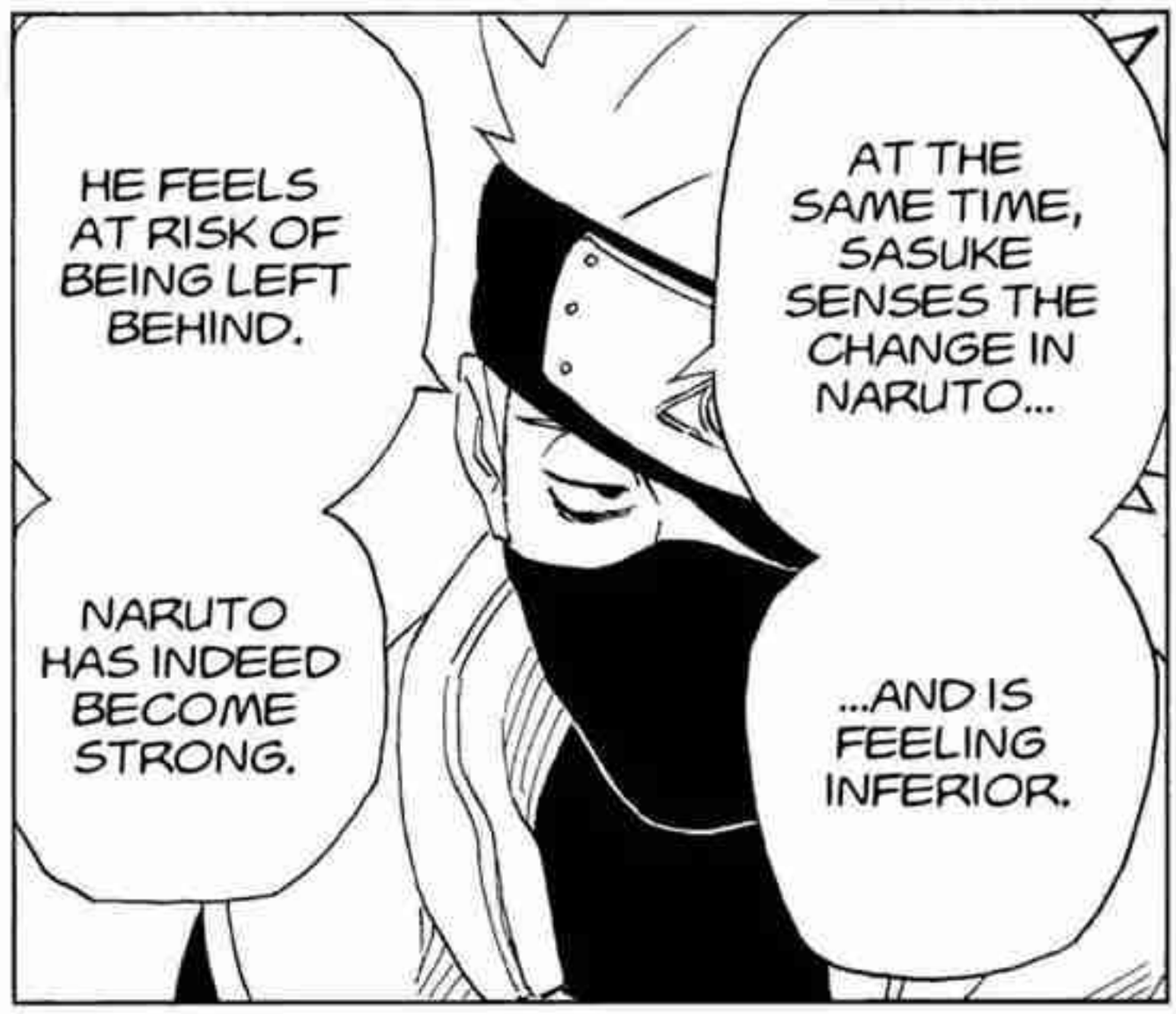
...

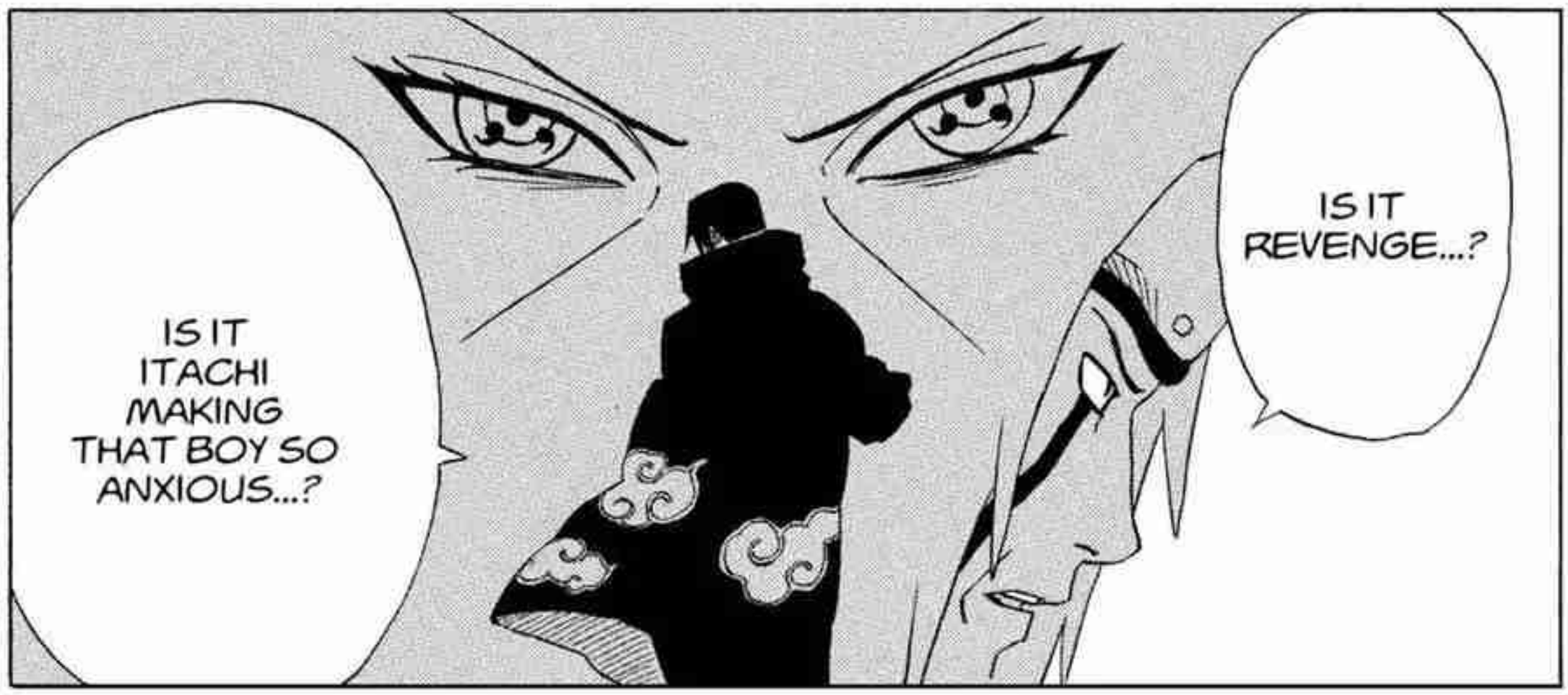
BUT...

...BY SASUKE!

...NOT BY YOU OR ME.

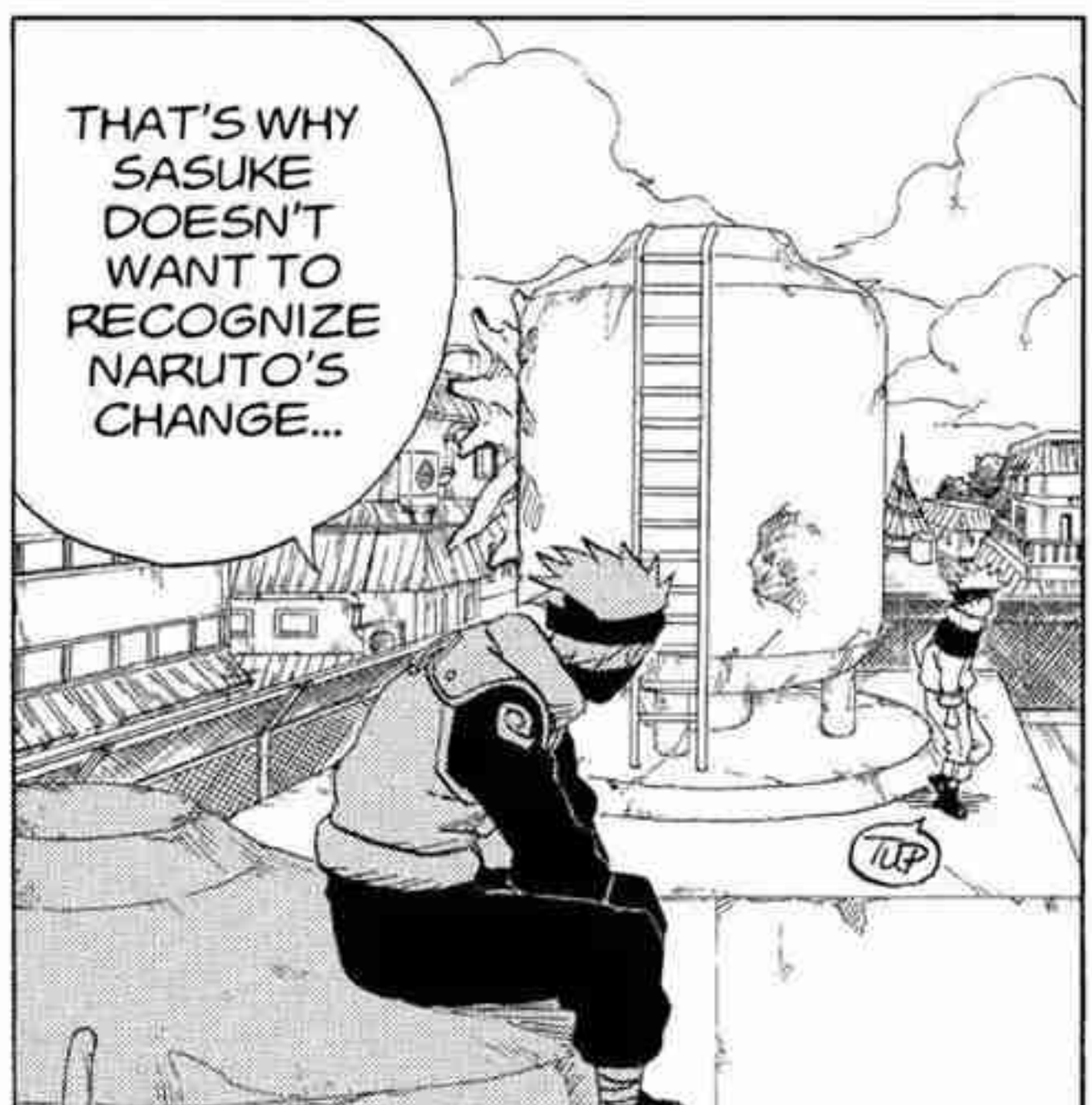
TO KILL...
THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN...


HE FEELS AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND.
AT THE SAME TIME, SASUKE SENSES THE CHANGE IN NARUTO...
NARUTO HAS INDEED BECOME STRONG.
...AND IS FEELING INFERIOR.


IS IT ITACHI MAKING THAT BOY SO ANXIOUS...?
IS IT REVENGE...?

TMP

IT'S A DIFFICULT THING, ISN'T IT, RIVALRY?
TMP
IF HE DOES, HE MAY END UP QUESTIONING HIMSELF...

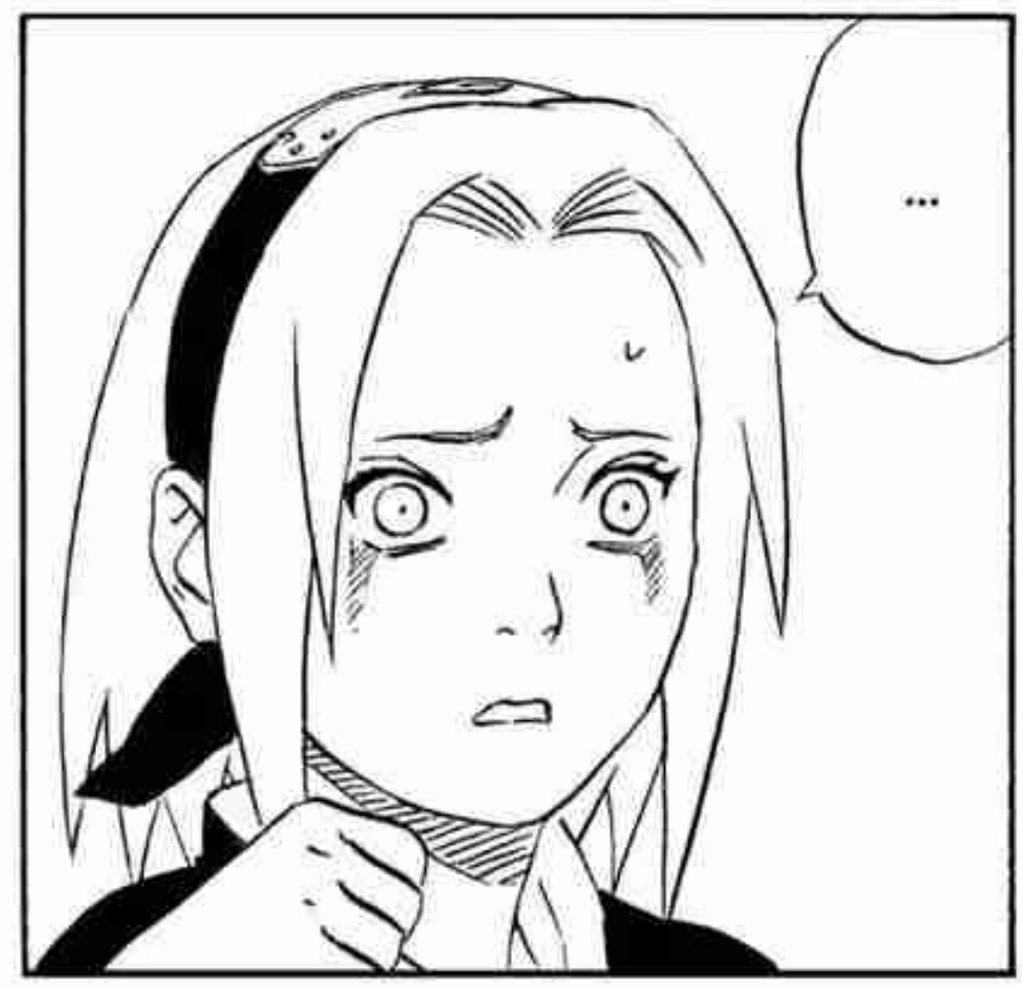

THAT'S WHY SASUKE DOESN'T WANT TO RECOGNIZE NARUTO'S CHANGE...
TMP

I HAVE TO DEAL WITH A MISSION...
THEN I'LL TRUST NARUTO TO YOU.
...AND THAT CHIDORI TOO.

MAYBE I SHOULD TALK TO HIM...
JEALOUSY IS NOT A GOOD SIGN.
油
TUP

ZSSH
!

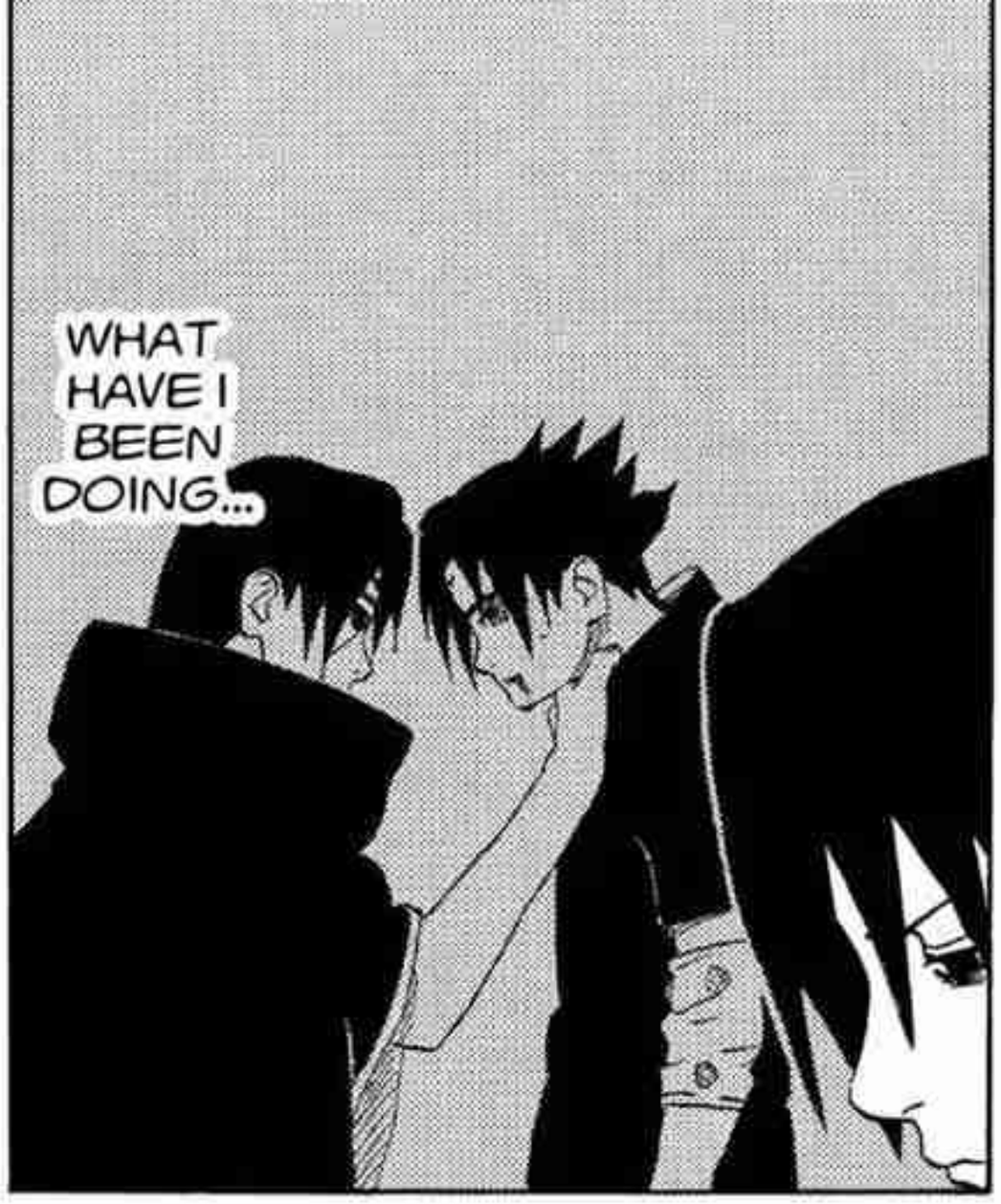
TMP

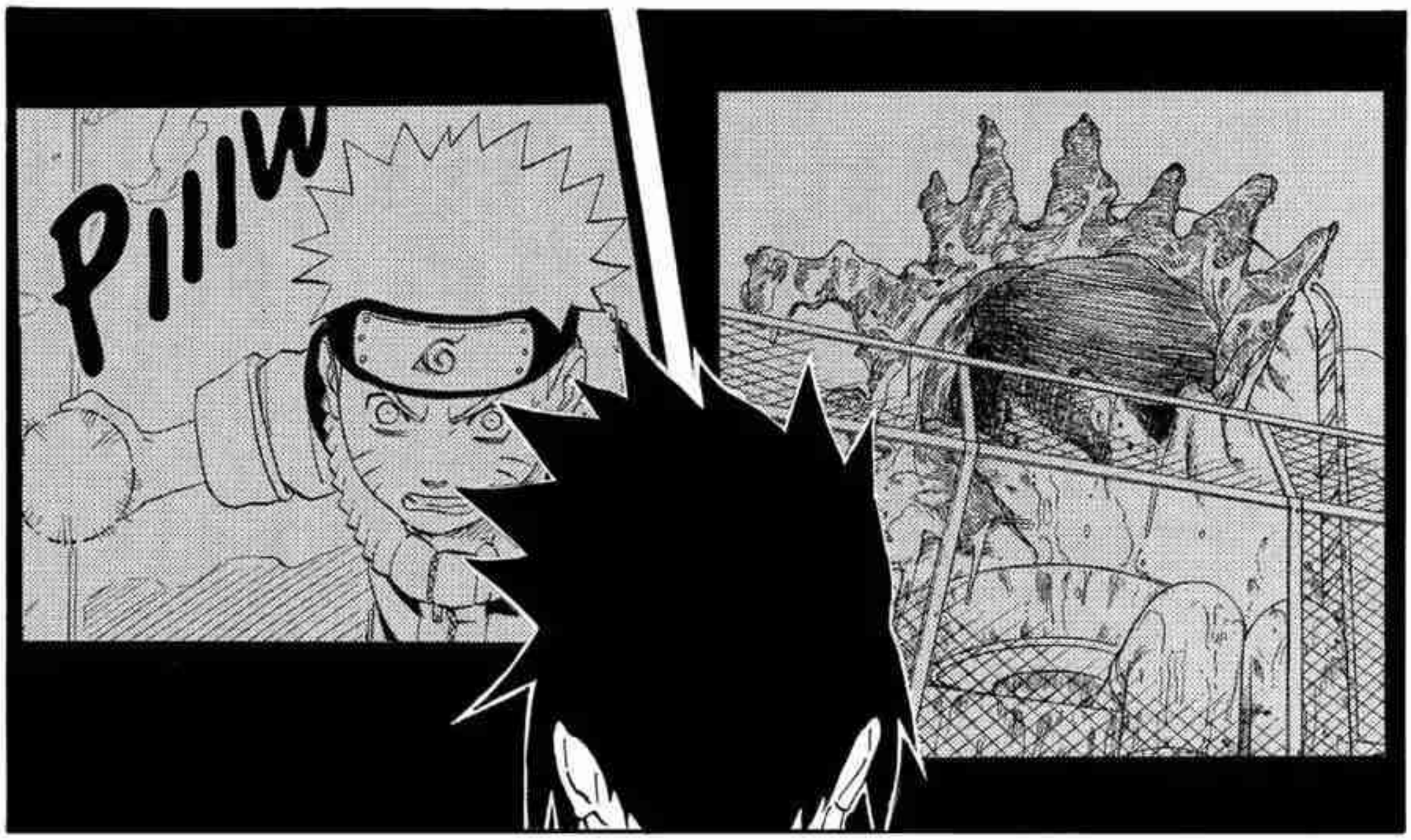

...

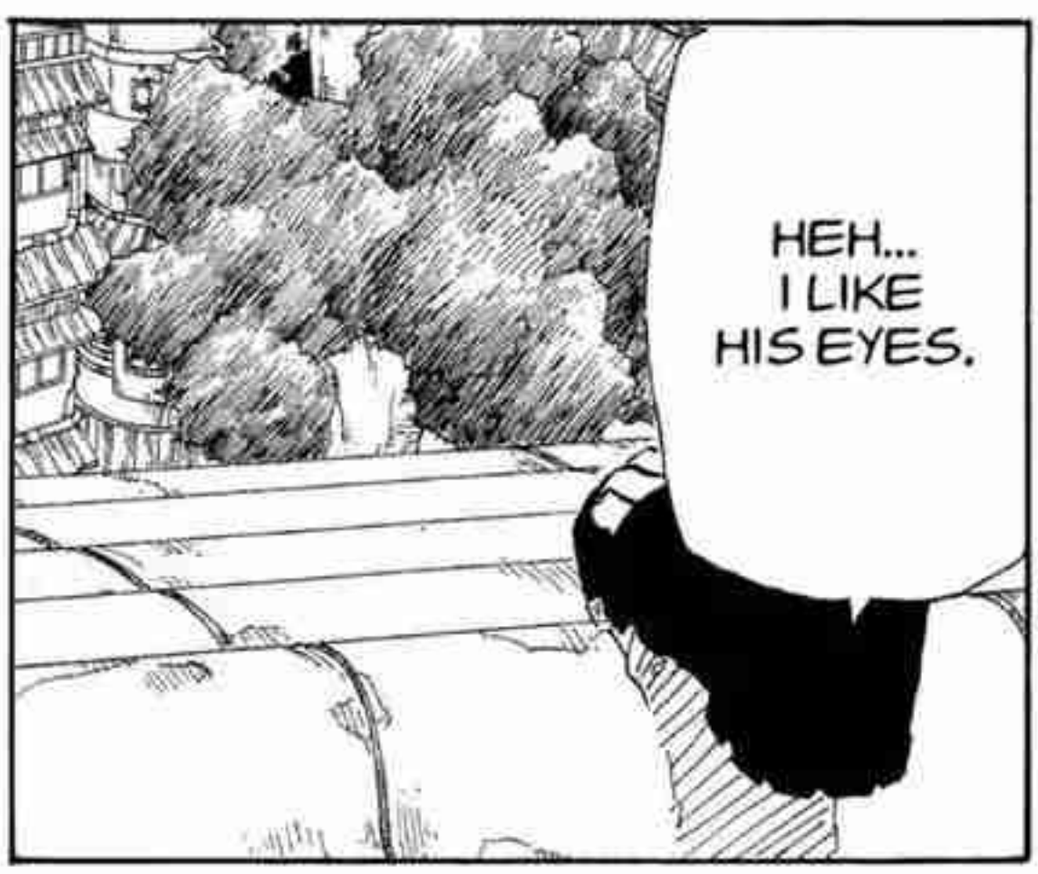
IT'LL BE LIKE IT WAS BEFORE!
DON'T WORRY!
TUP

READ
THIS
WAY

THANK YOU... MASTER KAKASHI...
...
ZSSH
!


WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING...

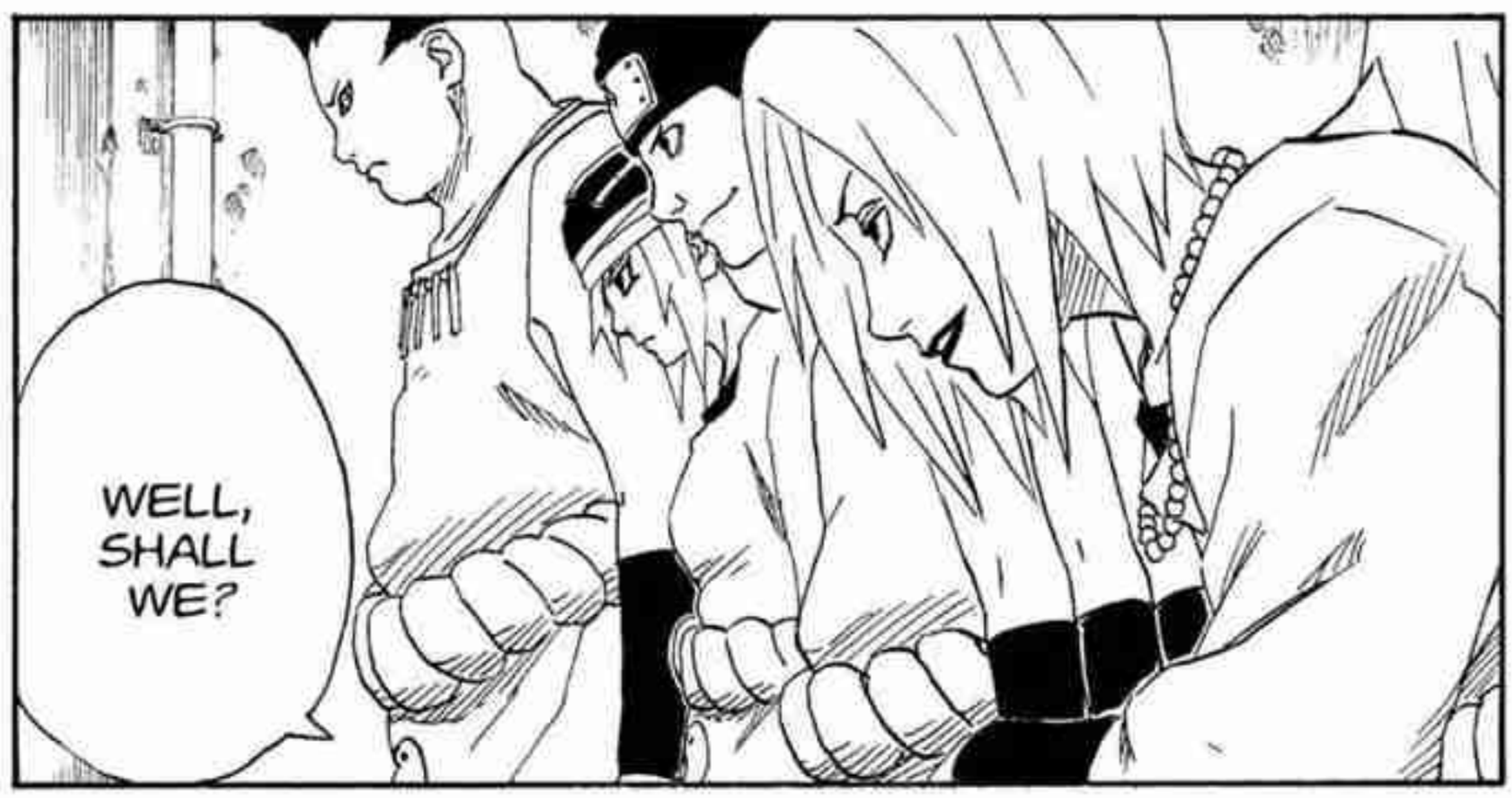

PIIW


HEH... I LIKE HIS EYES.

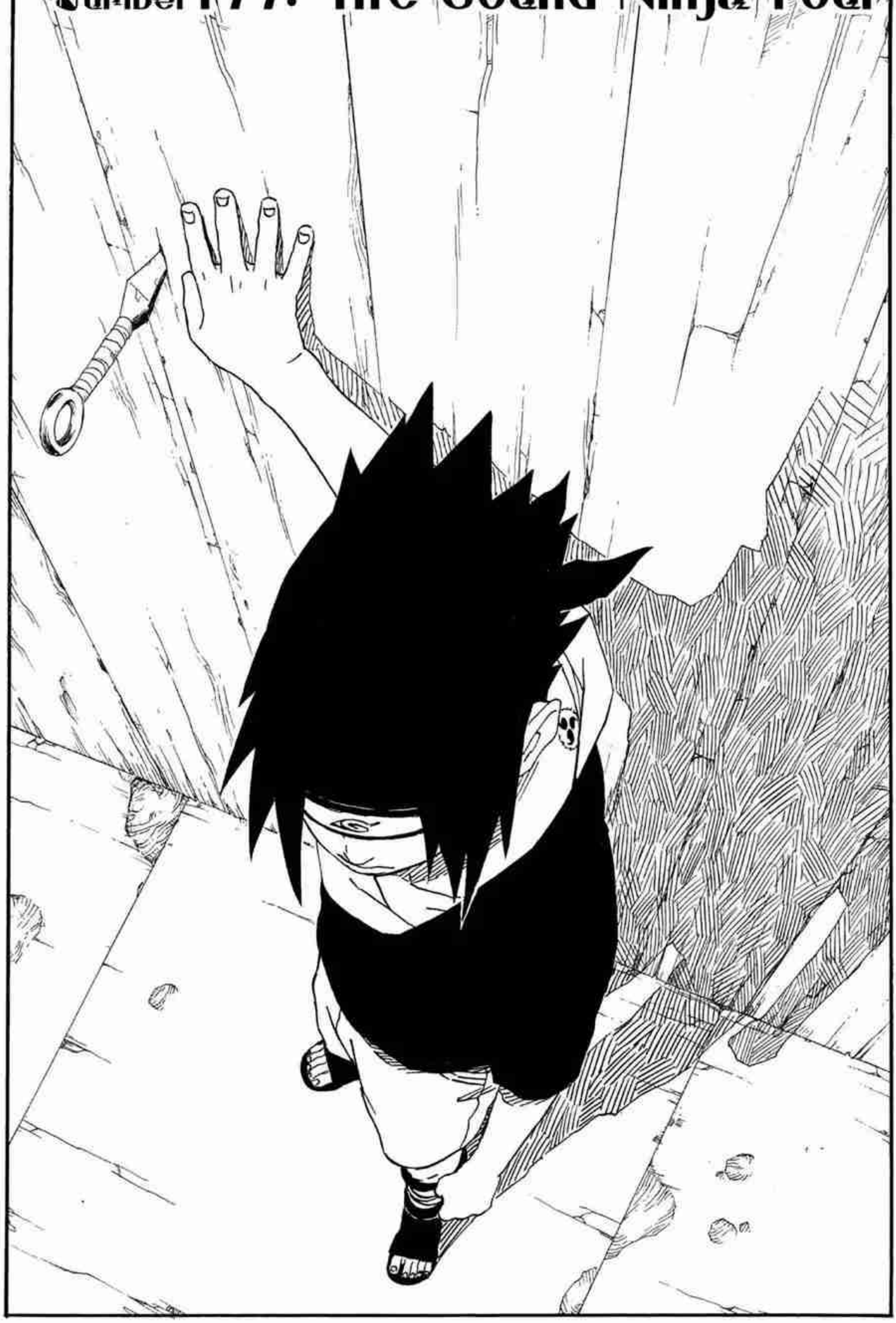
GRRK

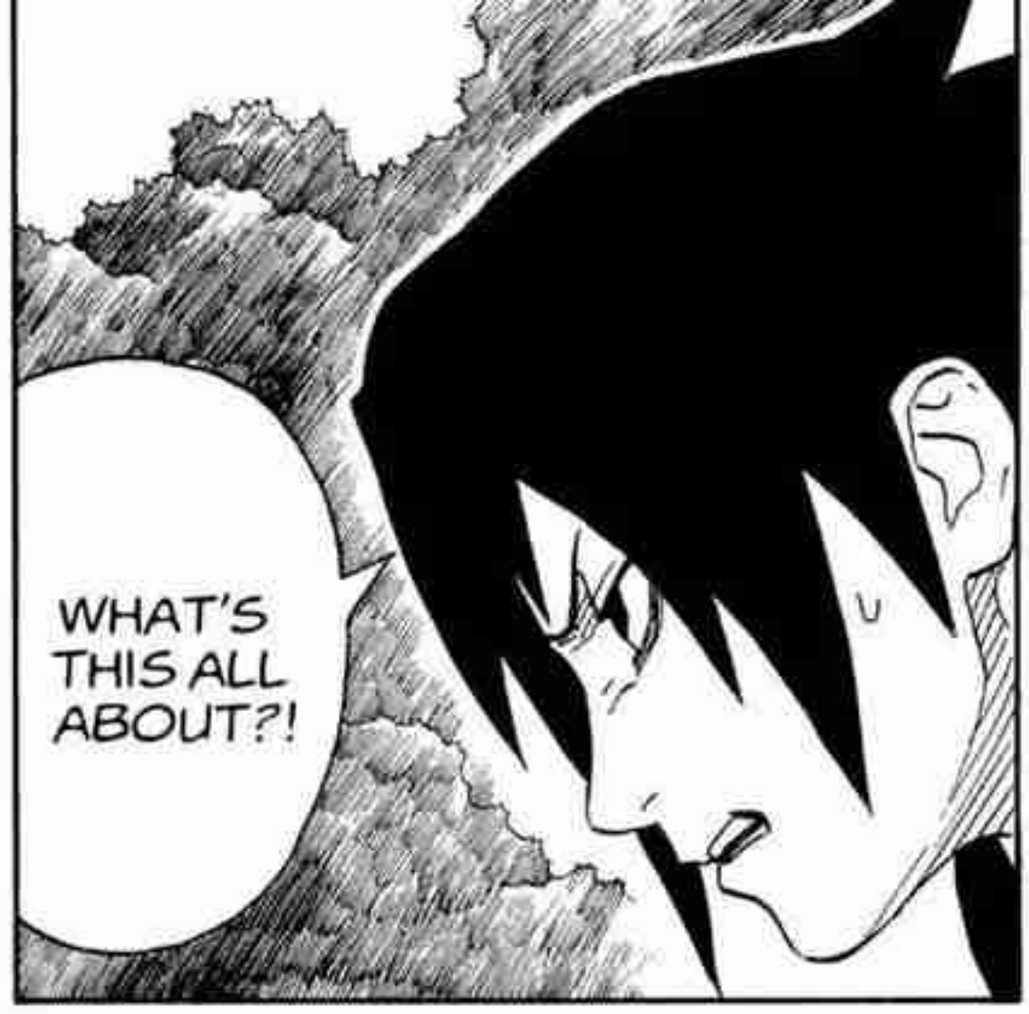
Congratulations, on your marriage and 4 year anniversary (and birthday)--!!!(^^)

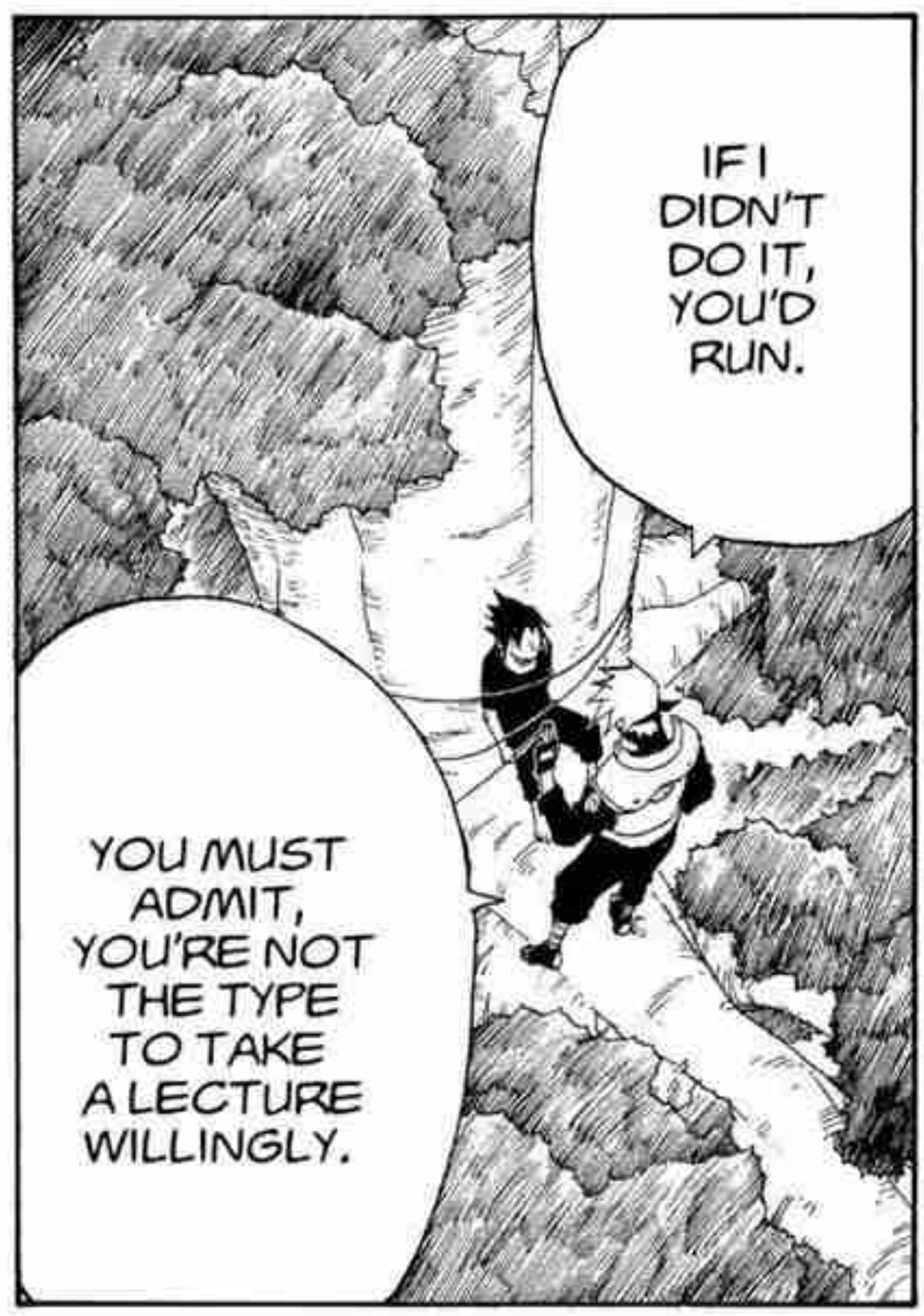
Number 177: The Sound Ninja Four



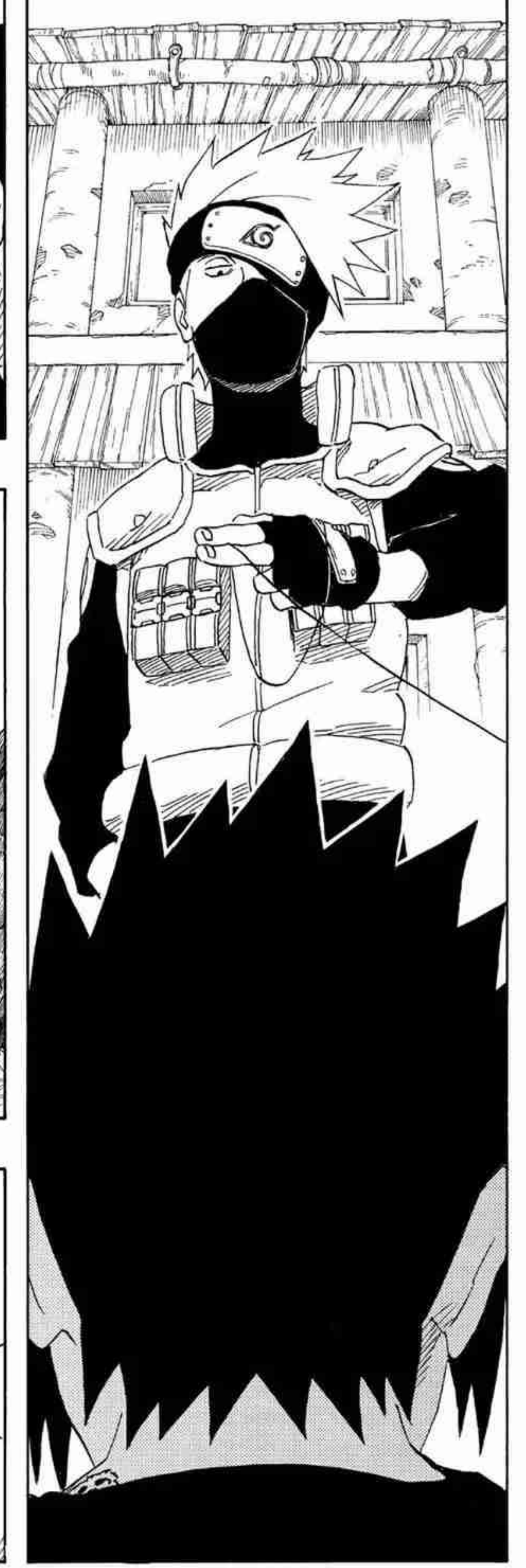
Number 177: The Sound Ninja Four




WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?!


IF I DIDN'T DO IT, YOU'D RUN.
YOU MUST ADMIT, YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO TAKE A LECTURE WILLINGLY.

ISN'T THAT...
...
...KAKASHI, THE MIRROR NINJA...?



SASUKE, FORGET ABOUT GETTING REVENGE.
...

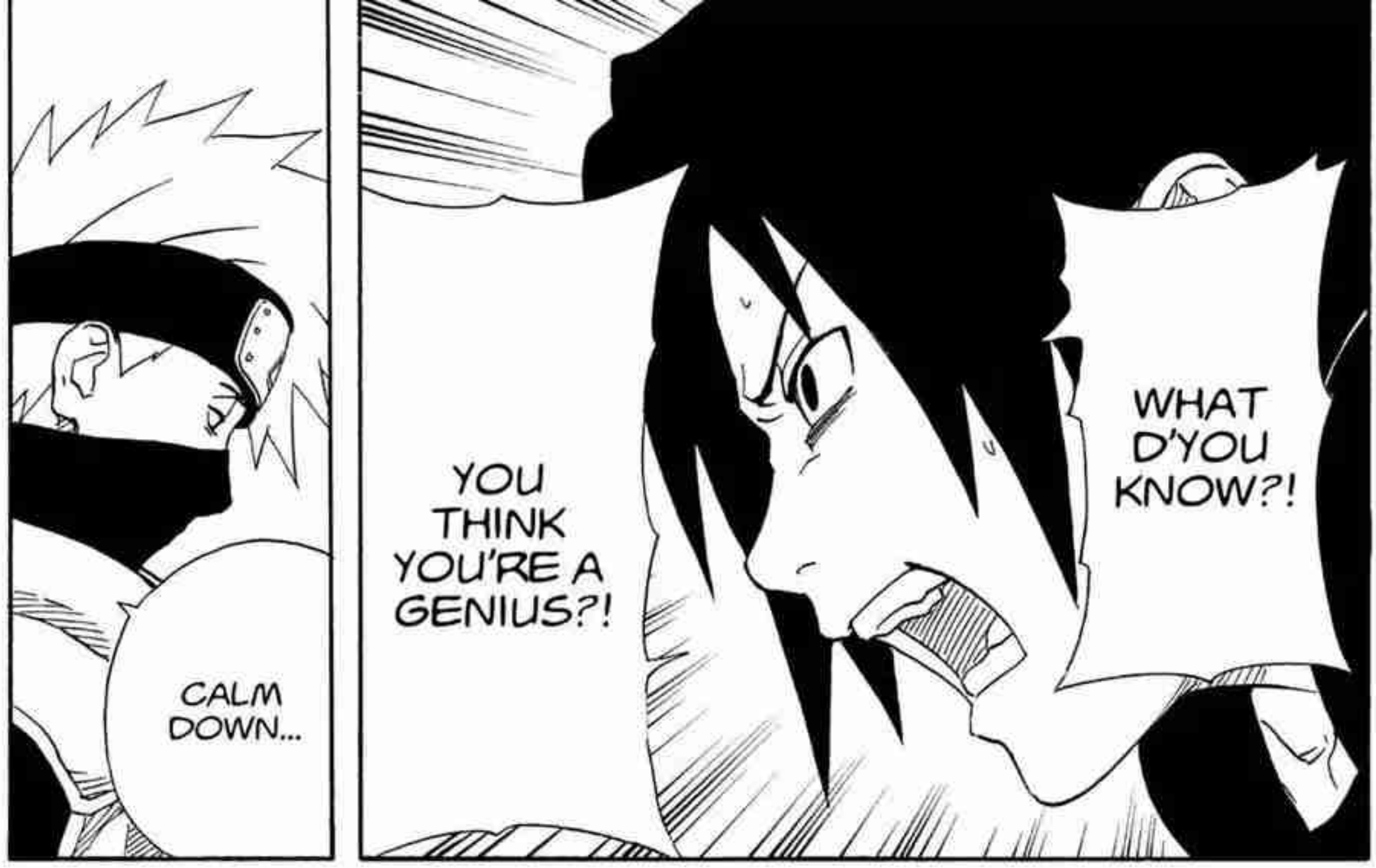
ARGH!

Grrr

IS NEVER GOOD... IT'S QUITE TRAGIC ACTUALLY.
THE FATE OF THOSE WHO SPEAK OF REVENGE...

I'VE SEEN A LOT OF KIDS LIKE YOU.
ALTHOUGH! IN MY LINE OF WORK...

EVEN IF YOUR REVENGE IS A SUCCESS... ALL THAT'LL COME OF IT IS EMPTINESS.
YOU'LL ONLY END UP HURTING AND SUFFERING MORE THAN YOU ARE NOW.


CALM DOWN...
YOU THINK YOU'RE A GENIUS?!
WHAT D'YOU KNOW?!

...THE PERSON MOST PRECIOUS TO YOU!
I COULD KILL...

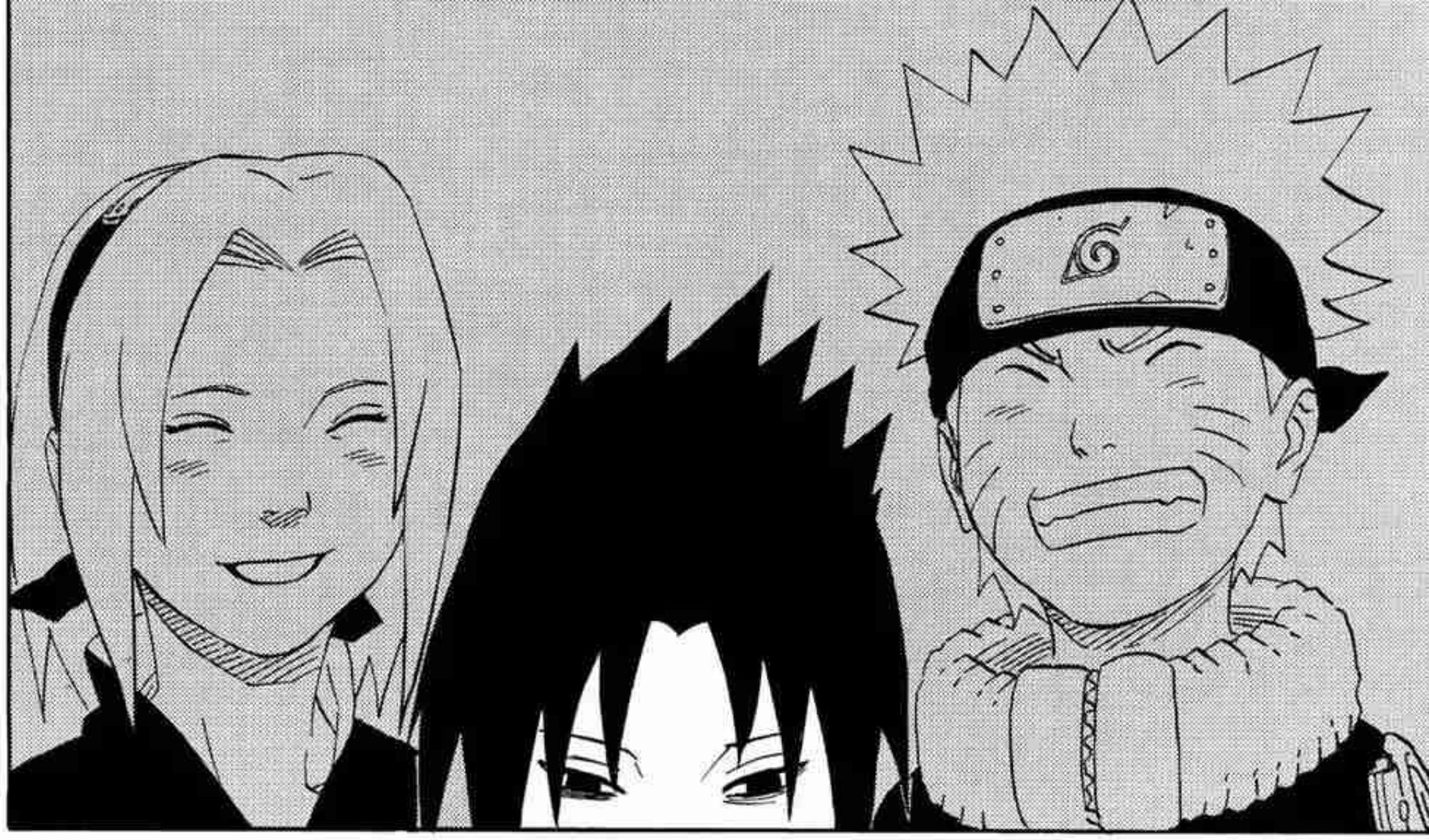
...
...JUST HOW WRONG YOU ARE ABOUT ME.
THEN YOU'D KNOW...

...!

BUT UNFORTU-NATELY
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE SPECIAL LEFT.
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD...

...HAVE ALREADY BEEN KILLED.
THE ONES MOST PRECIOUS TO ME...

READ THIS WAY
!
NEITHER YOU NOR I CAN BE CALLED LUCKY... THAT'S FOR SURE.
BUT...!
BUT WE'RE NOT THE MOST UNFORTUNATE EITHER.
I KNOW THE PAIN OF LOSING SOMEBODY MORE THAN I'D LIKE TO.
I'VE LIVED LONGER THAN YOU. TIMES WERE BAD, BACK IN MY DAY.
...
YOU AND I HAVE BOTH FOUND PRECIOUS FRIENDS, HAVEN'T WE?
...



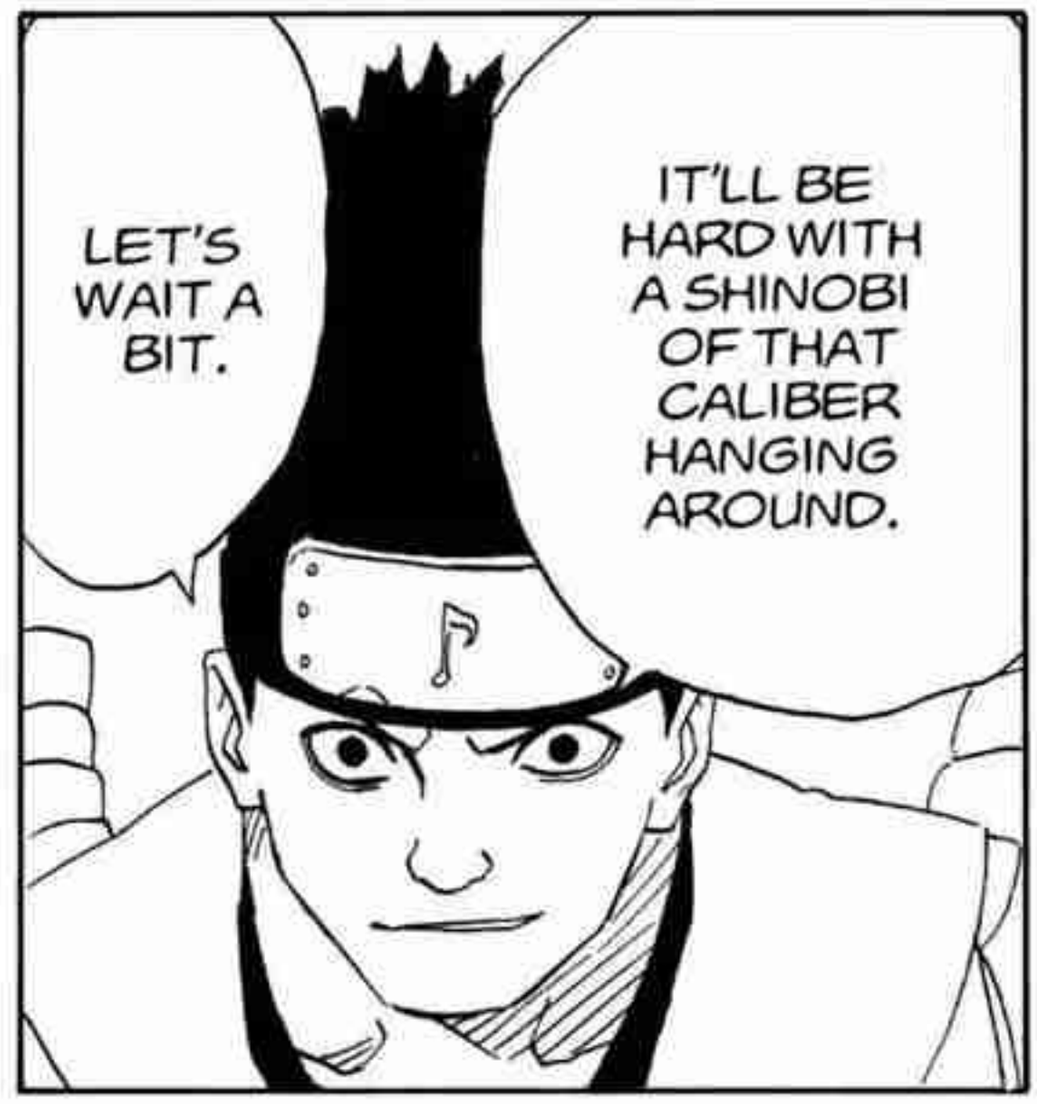
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW WHAT THAT POWER SHOULD BE USED FOR.
THAT POWER IS NOT TO BE AIMED AT A FRIEND OR USED FOR REVENGE.
SLIP

CHIDORI WAS A POWER I GAVE YOU BECAUSE YOU FOUND SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
YOU REALIZE IT AFTER YOU LOSE THEM...
TWIP
PFFT

...

THINK ABOUT WHETHER WHAT I SAID HIT THE MARK OR NOT...
ZSSH

BUT NOT ME!
MAYBE FOR WEAKLINGS LIKE YOU!

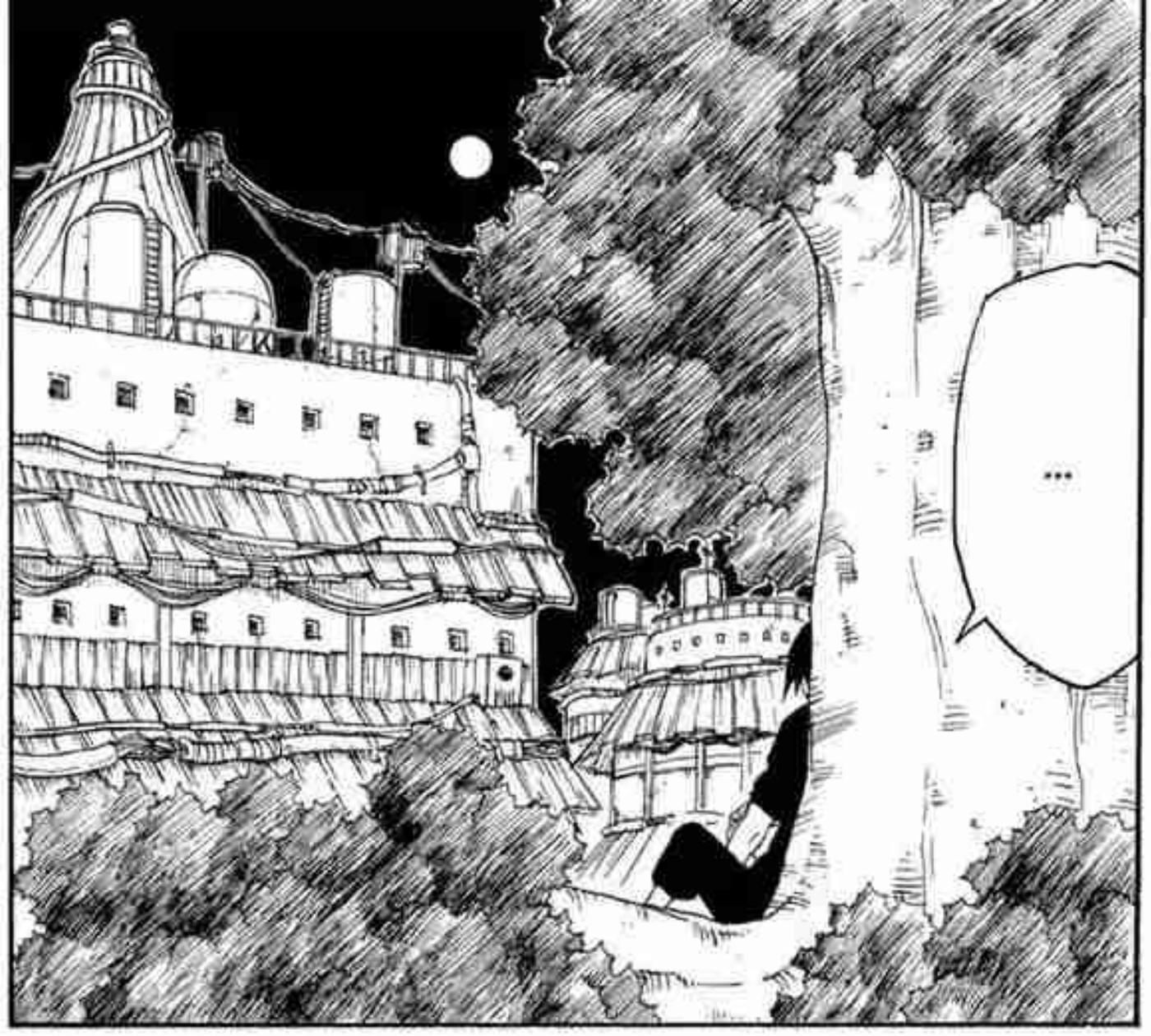

LET'S WAIT A BIT.
IT'LL BE HARD WITH A SHINOBI OF THAT CALIBER HANGING AROUND.

HMPH...
DON'T BUTT IN, YOU VULGAR...

IF THERE'S TWO OF US, ONE SLASH AND WE'D HAVE HIS NECK, BUT...
HMPH, I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE...

YOU STINK, PIG!

NO RESPECTABLE WOMAN WOULD SAY SUCH A...
TAYUYA...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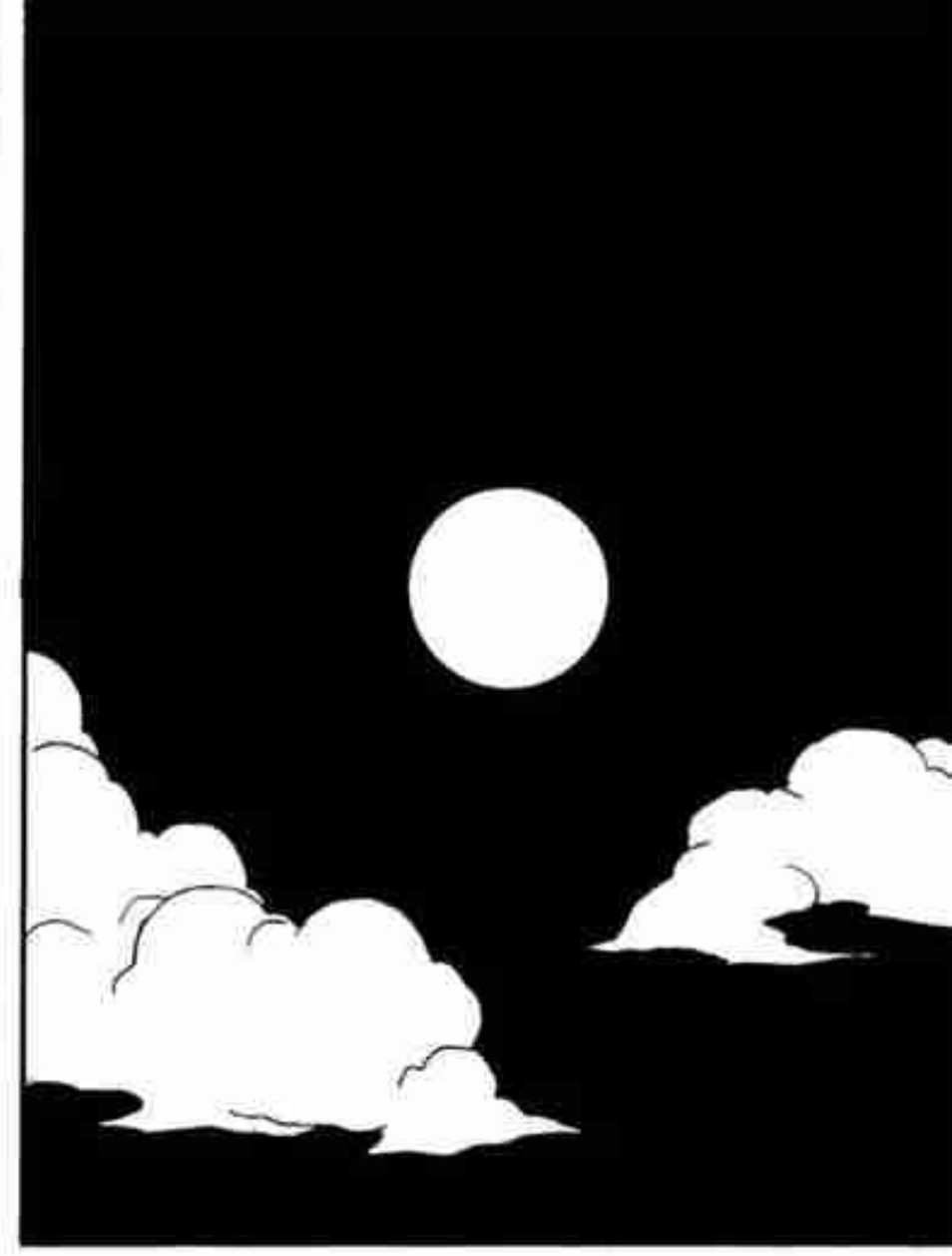
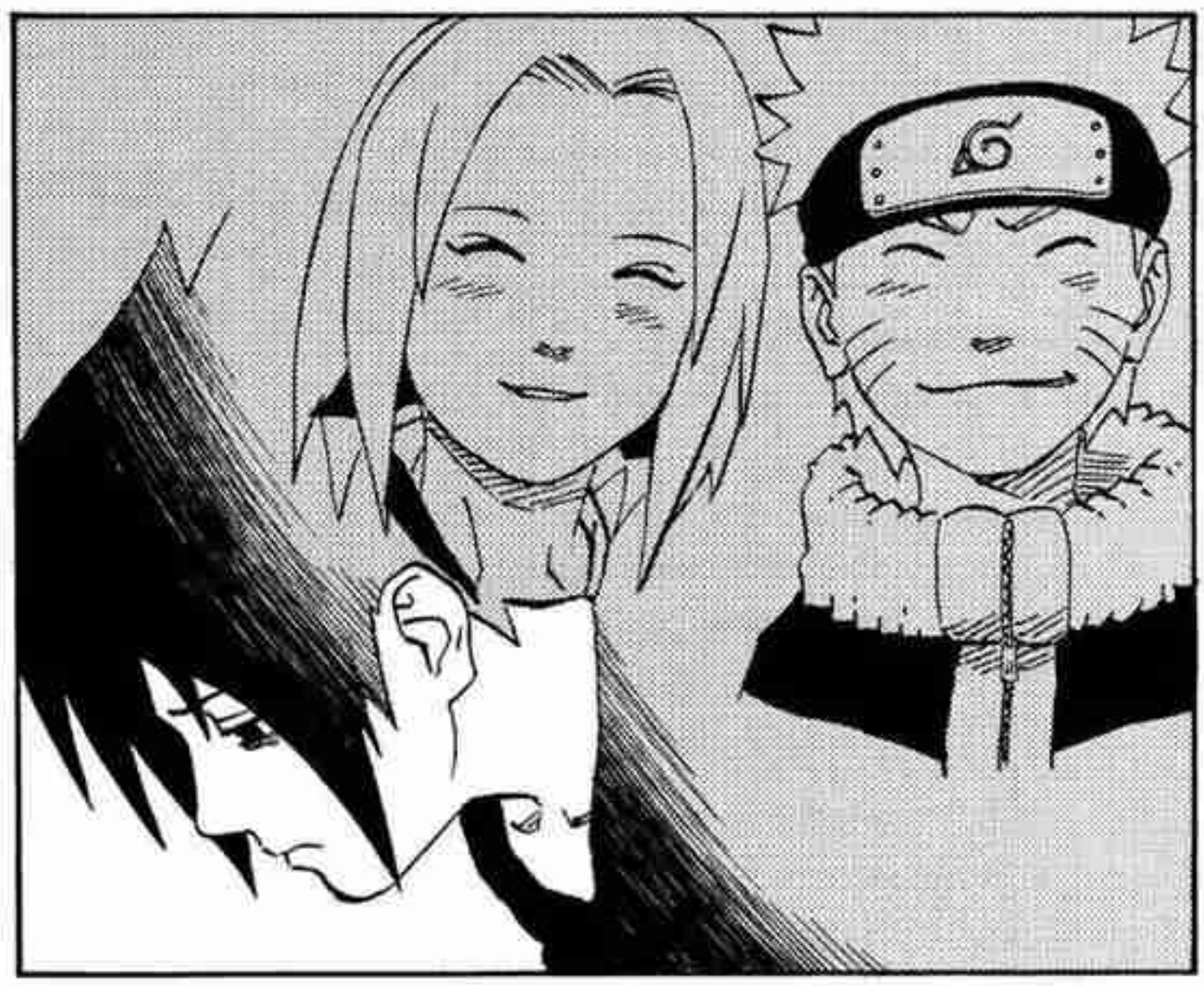


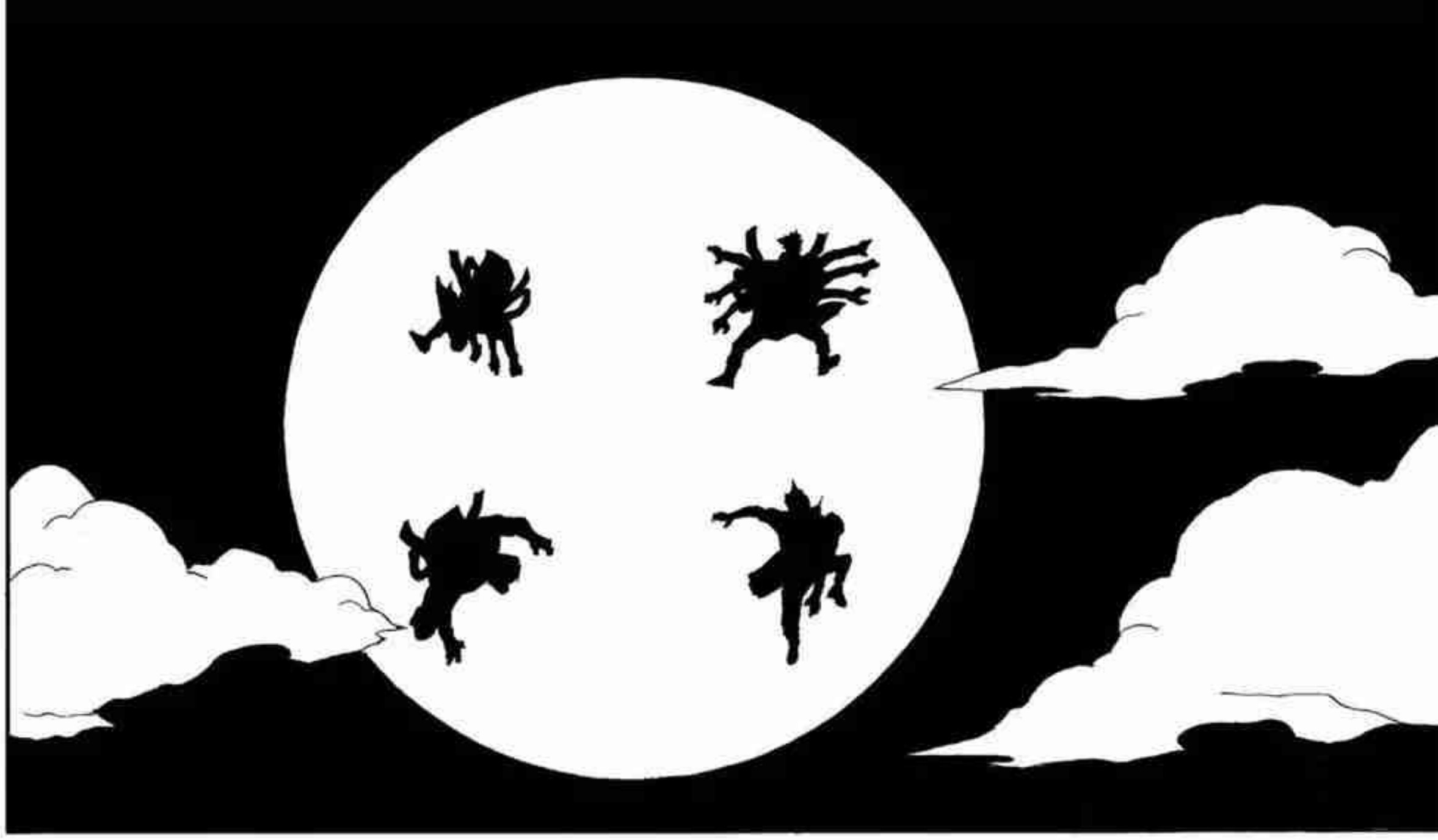
...



NO...

NO...

READ THIS WAY
IF IT FAILS, I DIE!!
THE ODDS OF THE OPERATION BEING A SUCCESS ARE 50 PERCENT AT BEST.
Splash
Pluck
... SUCCESS.
...



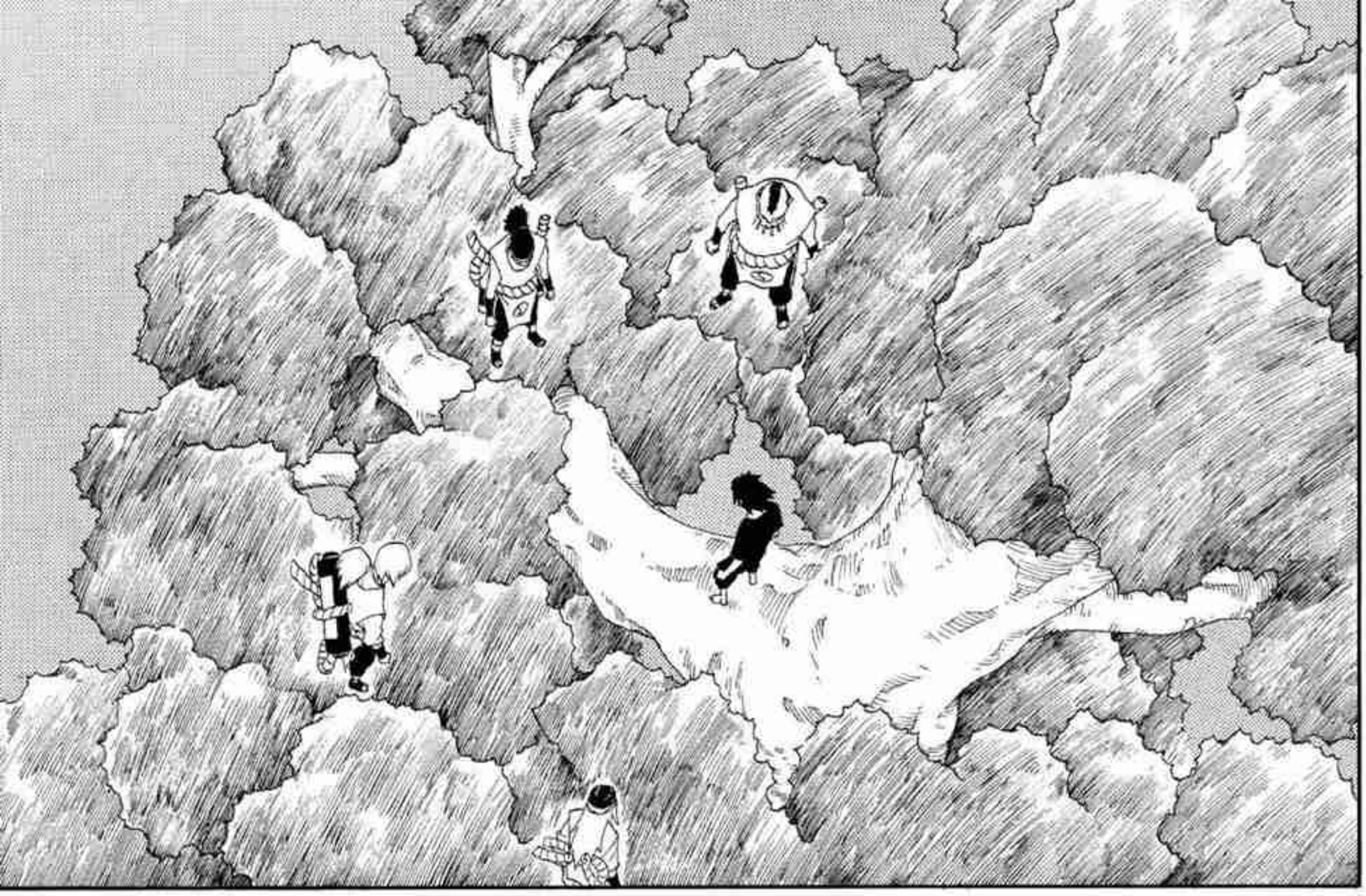
!

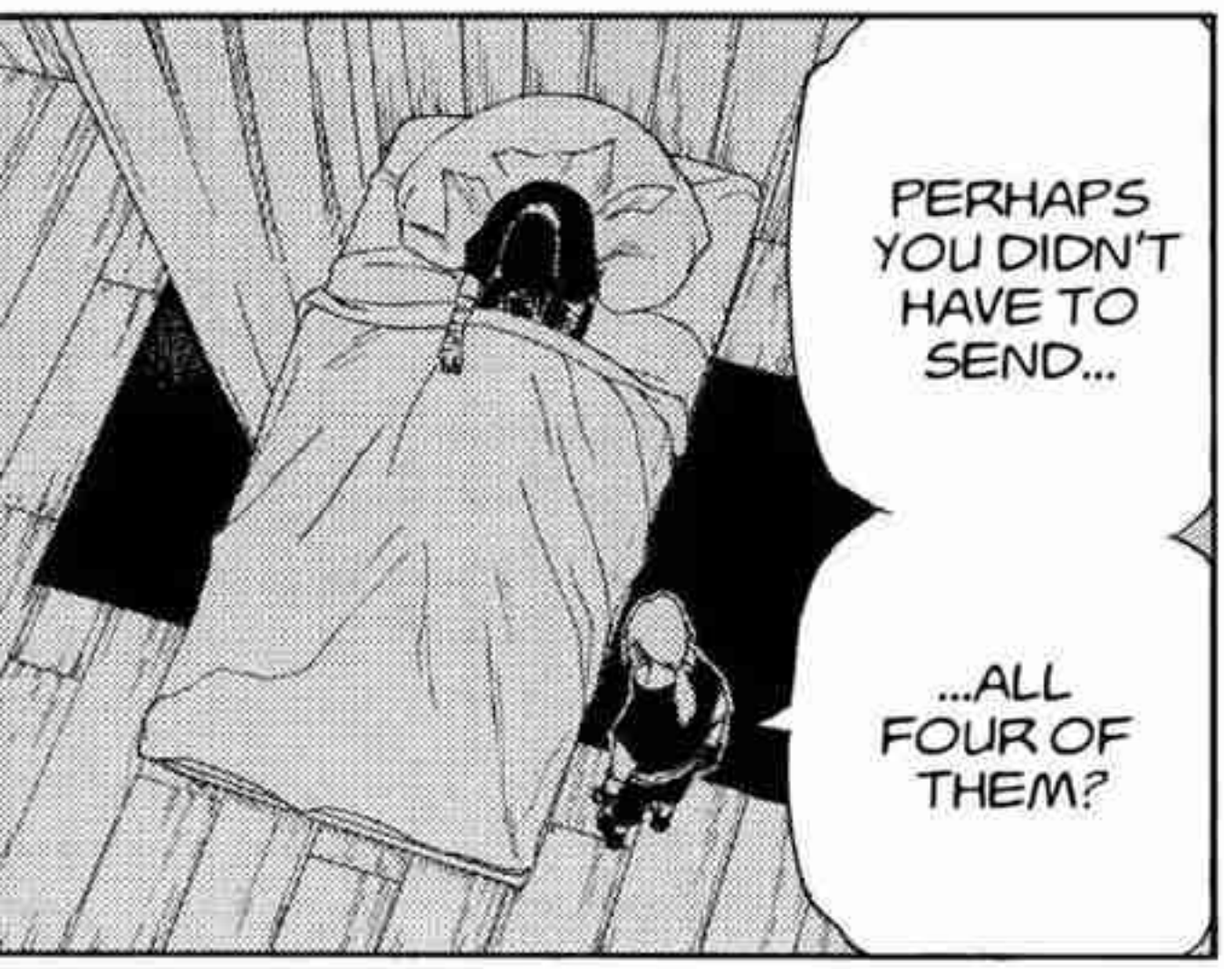
Zssh

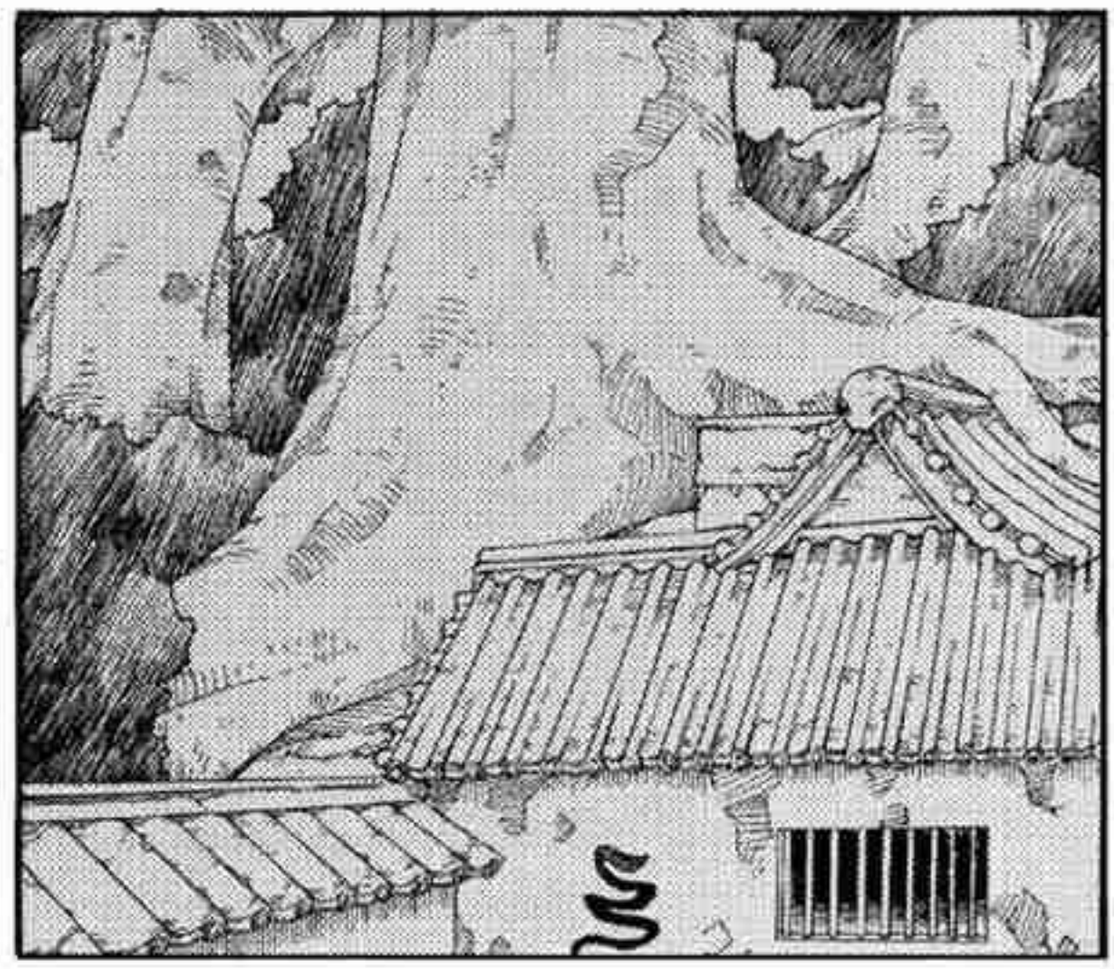
Zssh

Zssh

Zssh




PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SEND...
...ALL FOUR OF THEM?



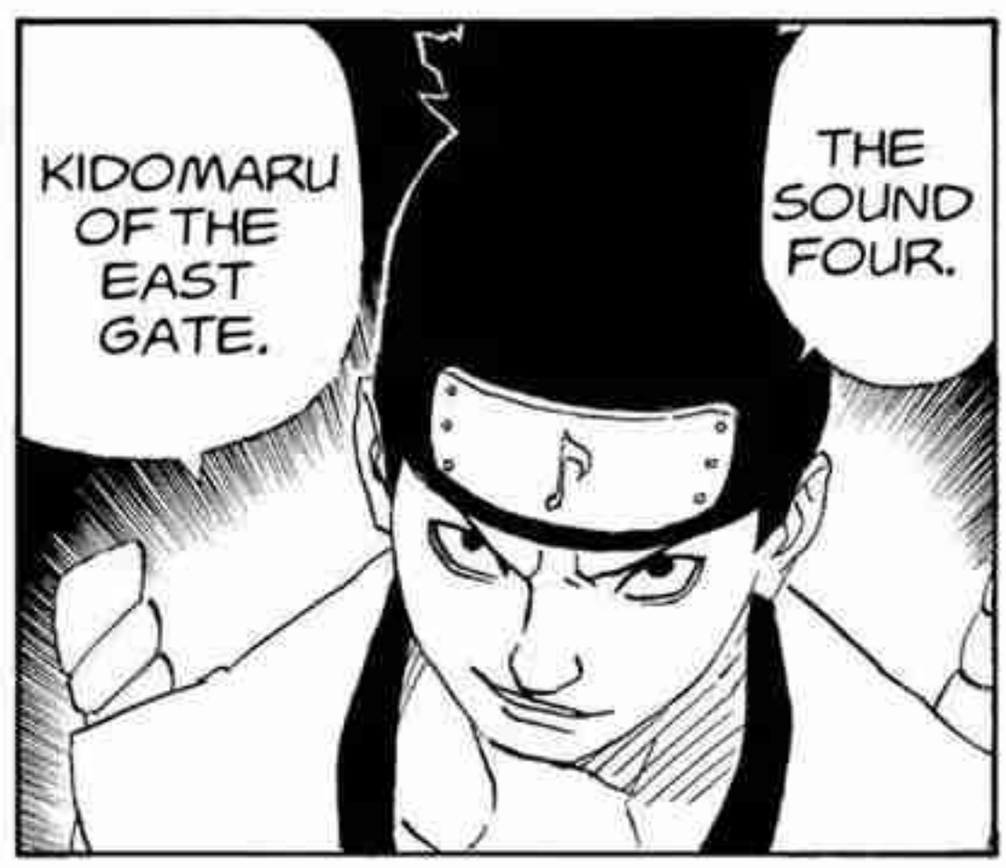
IT'LL HARDLY BE A CHALLENGE...
THE WAY SASUKE IS NOW, HE WON'T STAND A CHANCE.

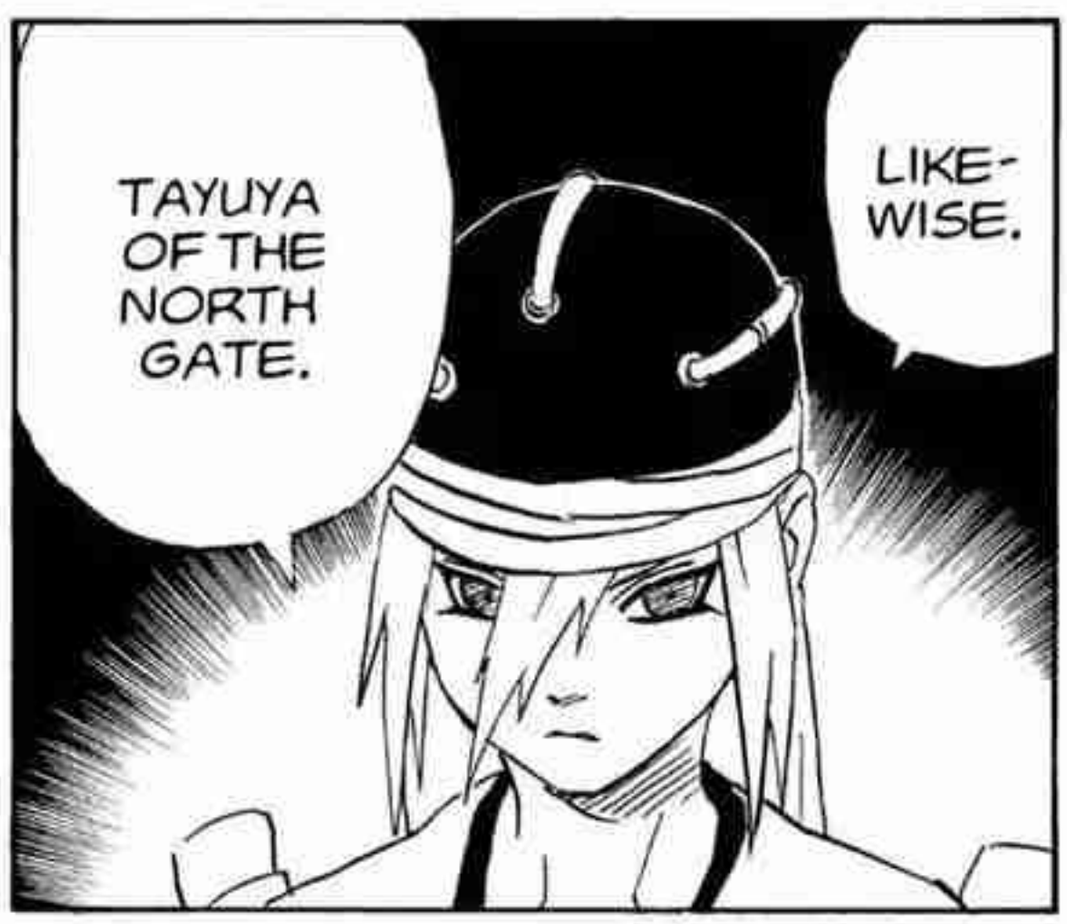
HOW POWERFUL IS HE?
THOSE KIDS...
...SEEM TO BE WAY TOO INTERESTED IN SASUKE.

HE'LL COME TO ME EVENTUALLY...

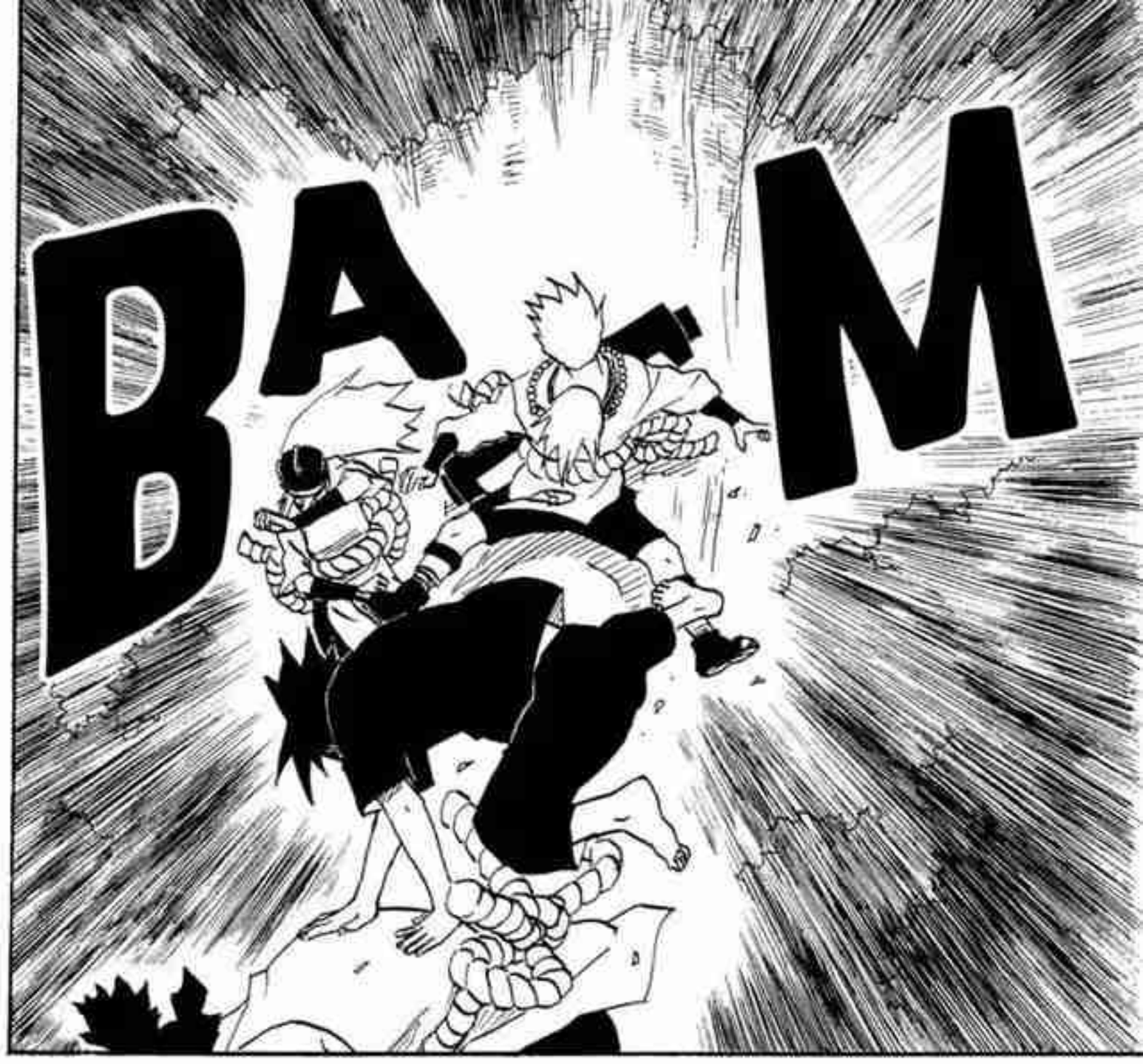
HE NEEDS GUIDANCE...

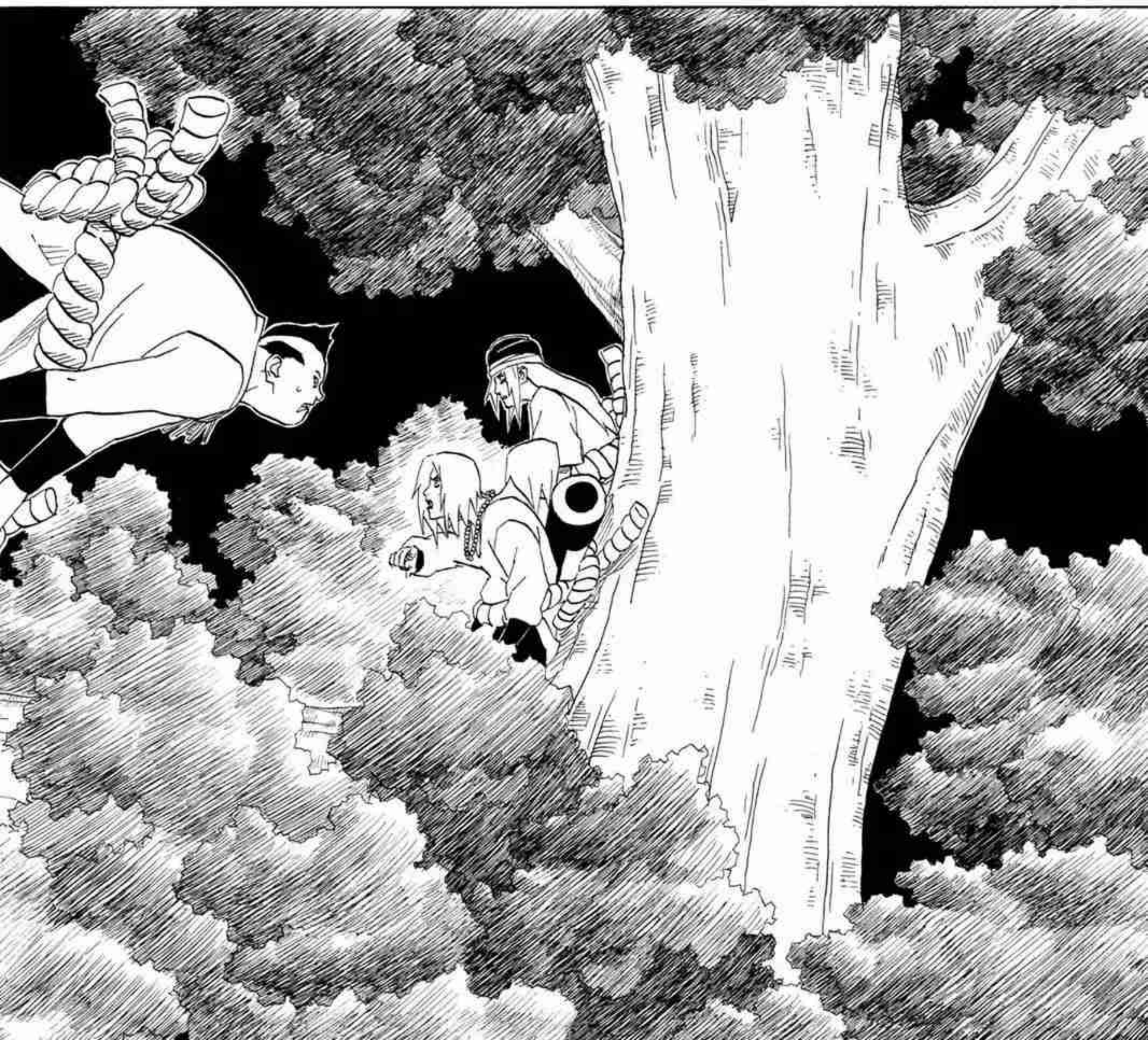
HEH HEH...





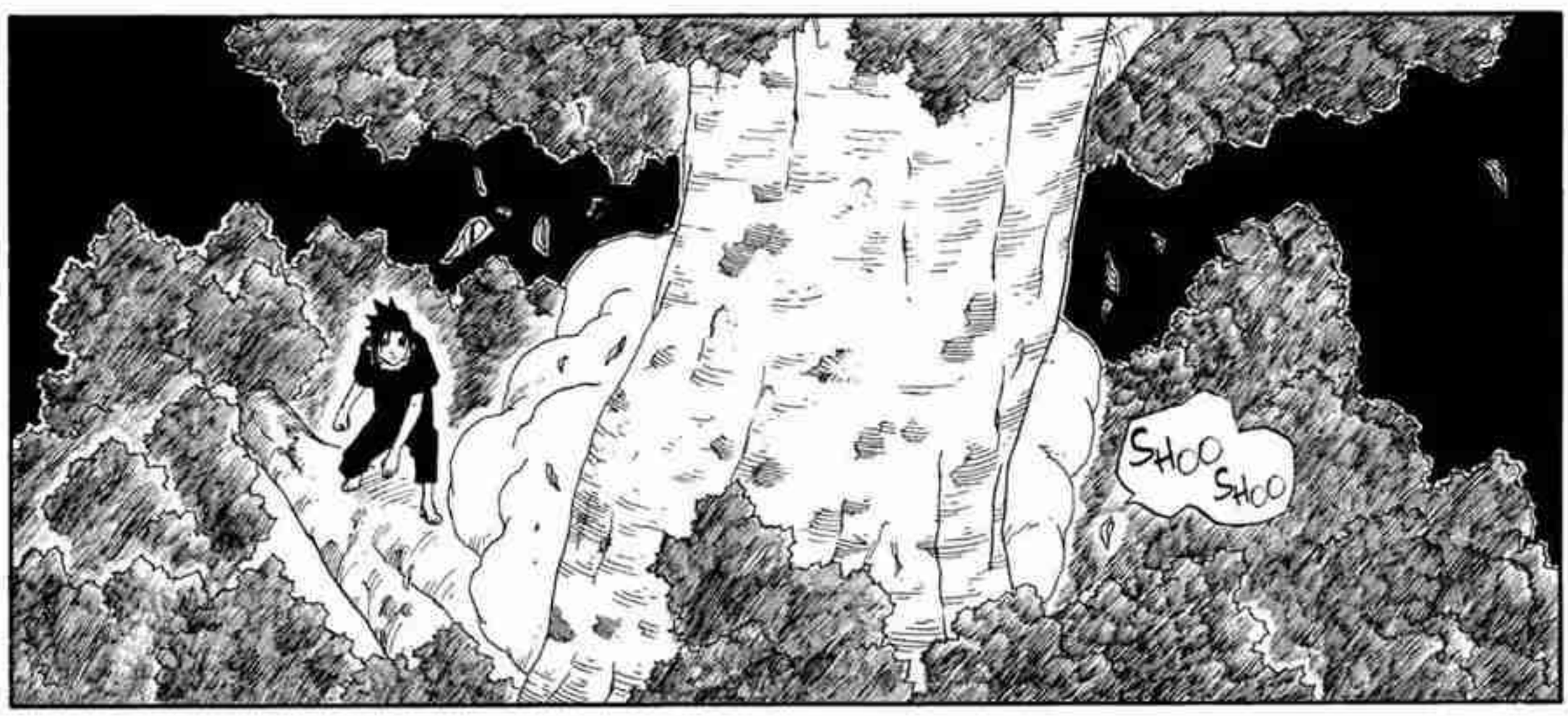
READ THIS WAY
ZSSH
ZSSH
ZSSH
ZSSH
...
ZSSH
CRAK
BAM

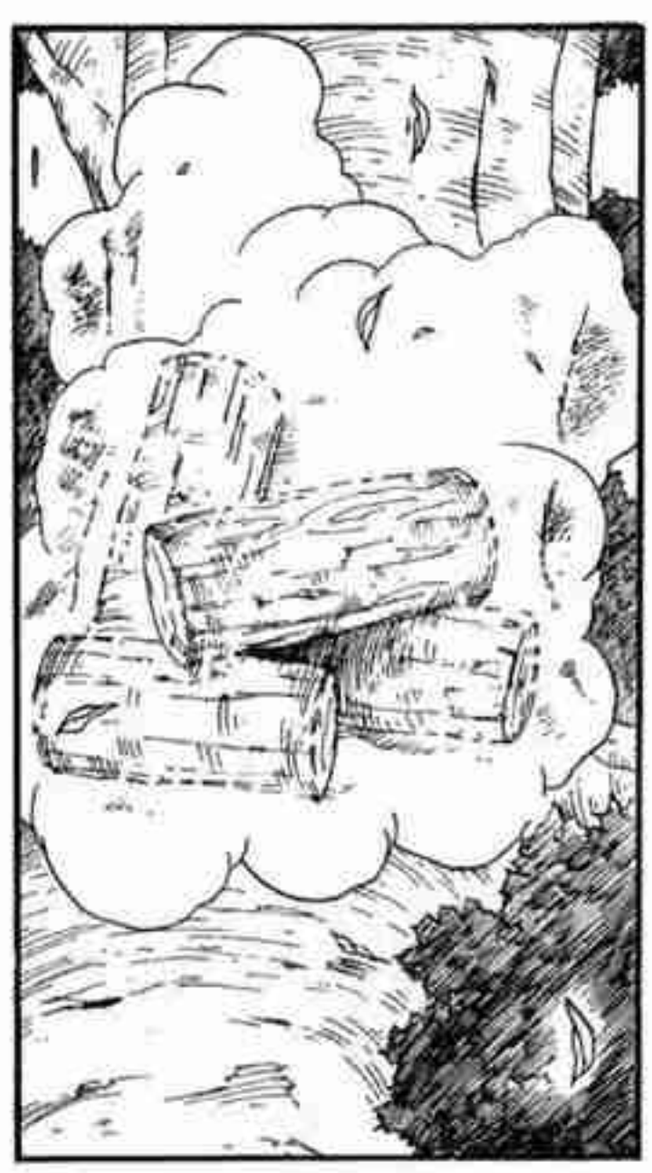

BA
M



YAH!!
GLOM
FWAM
SLSH
FWIP

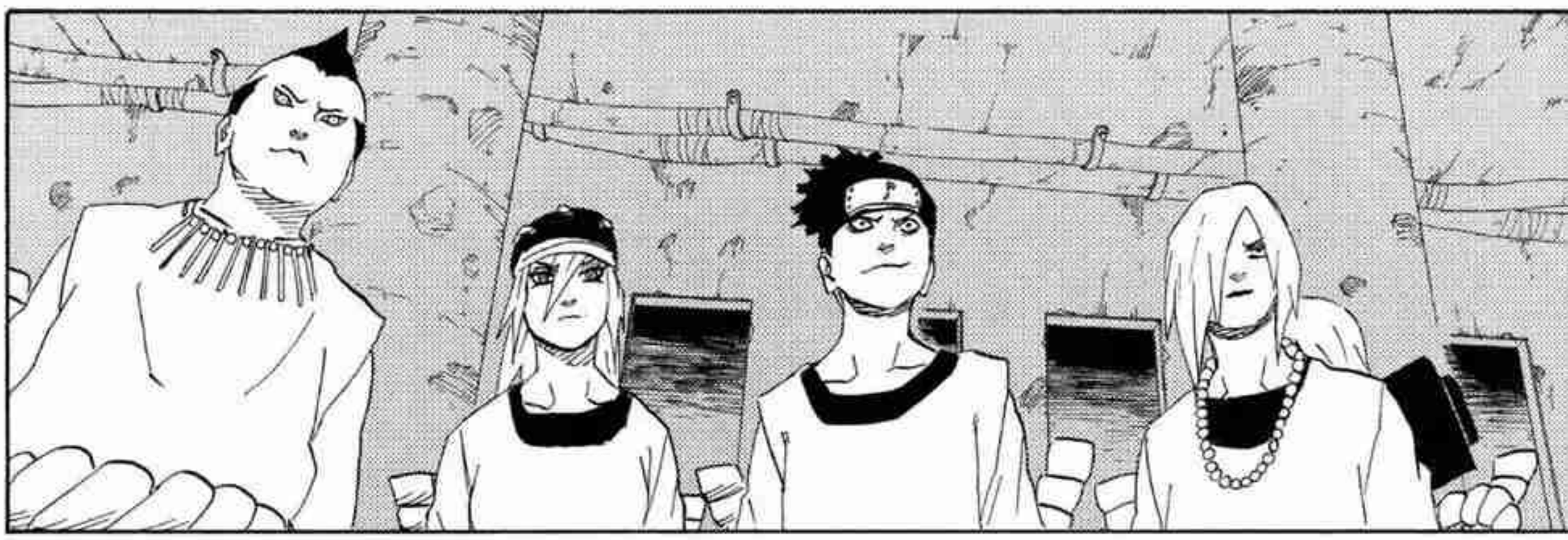
KA DOOM

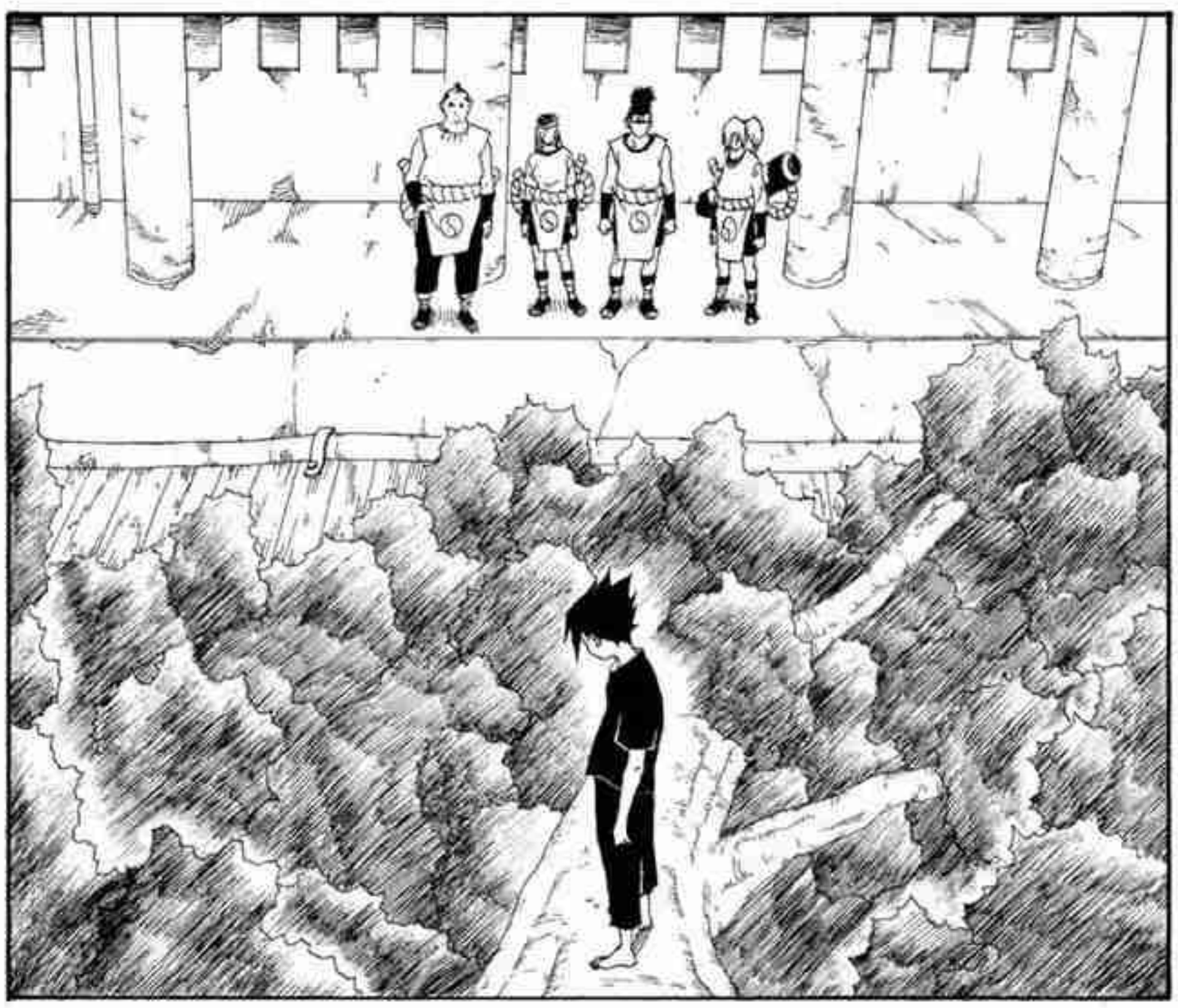




YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME?
I'M NOT FEELING CHEERY AT THE MOMENT.

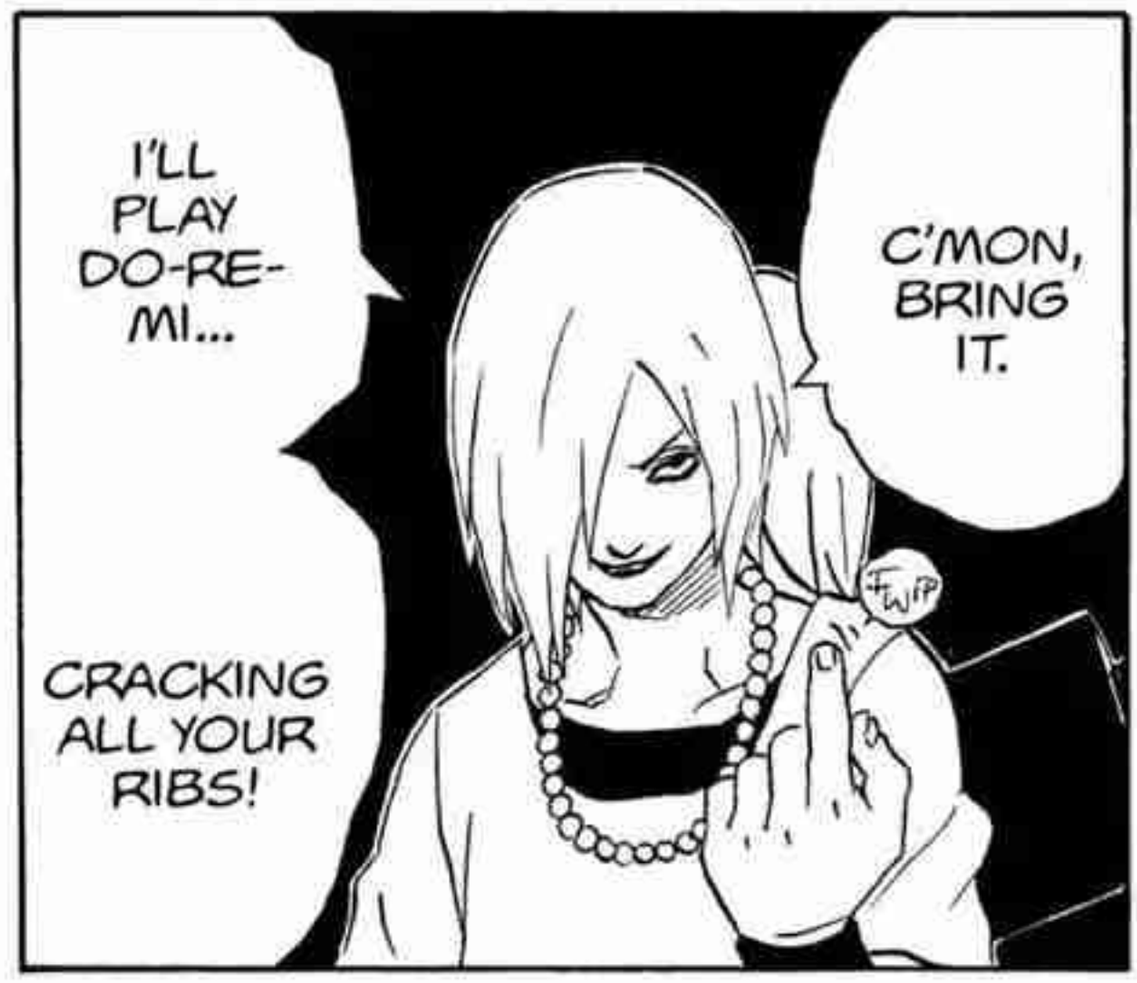
Number 178:

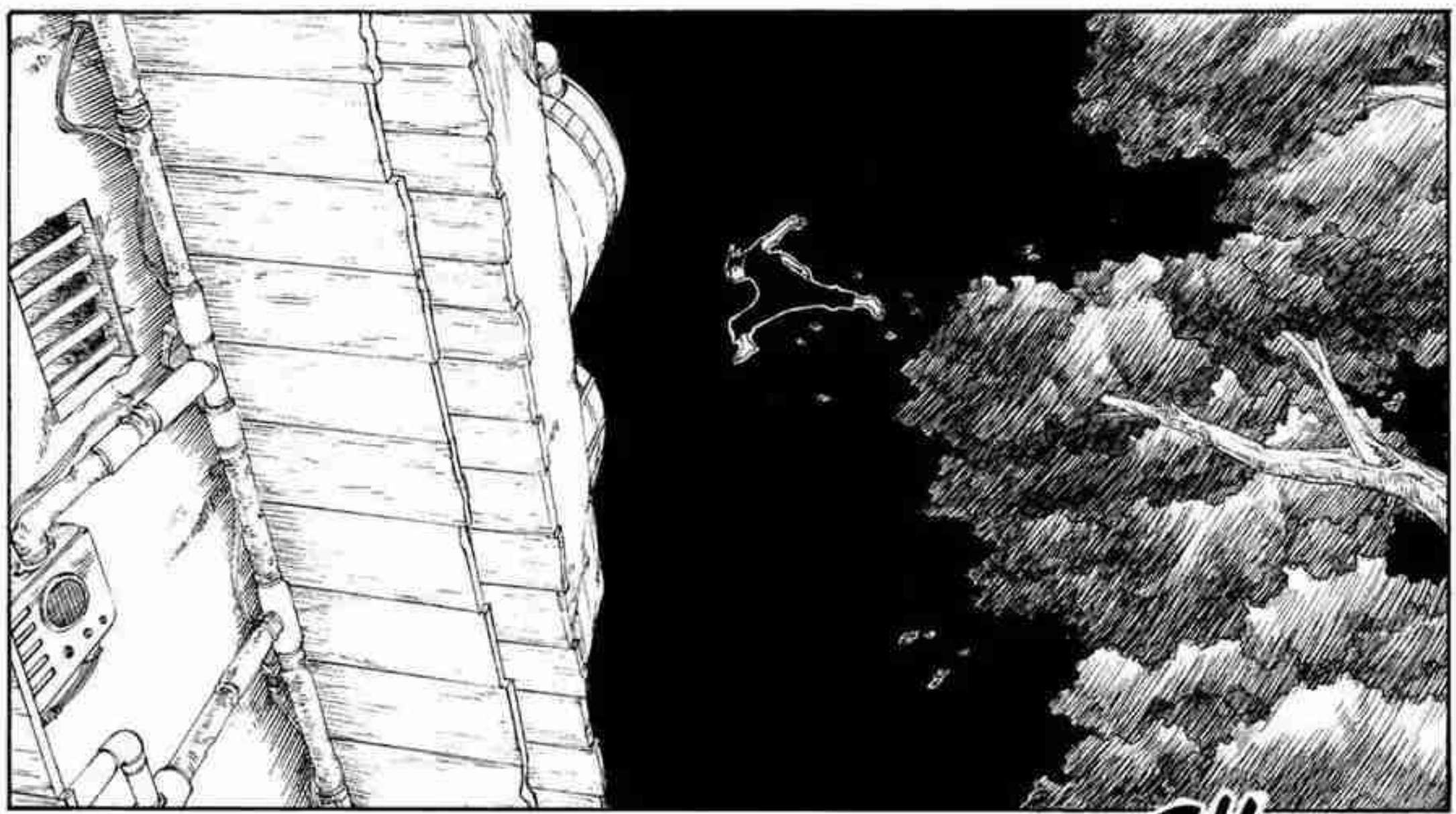




STOP ACTIN' SO TOUGH.

GRSH


I'LL PLAY DO-RE-MI...
C'MON, BRING IT.
CRACKING ALL YOUR RIBS!
FWIP



WHIP

I GOT HIM!
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
TUP

PA
ZSSH
SH
WHIRR
WHIR WHIR
Whir
Whir
Whir
Whir
SMRK

!! KOOSH

FWAP

DADAM

SH

!
SWSH

PAK

PAK

LET'S HEAR YOUR RIBS RING.

WH-WHAT?!
!?!
DOOM

MAKE 'EM RING HIGHER..
C'MON!!
YOUR BONES ARE LOW-PITCHED.

WHERE'D HE ATTACK FROM?

!

KOSA
DO!
RE!

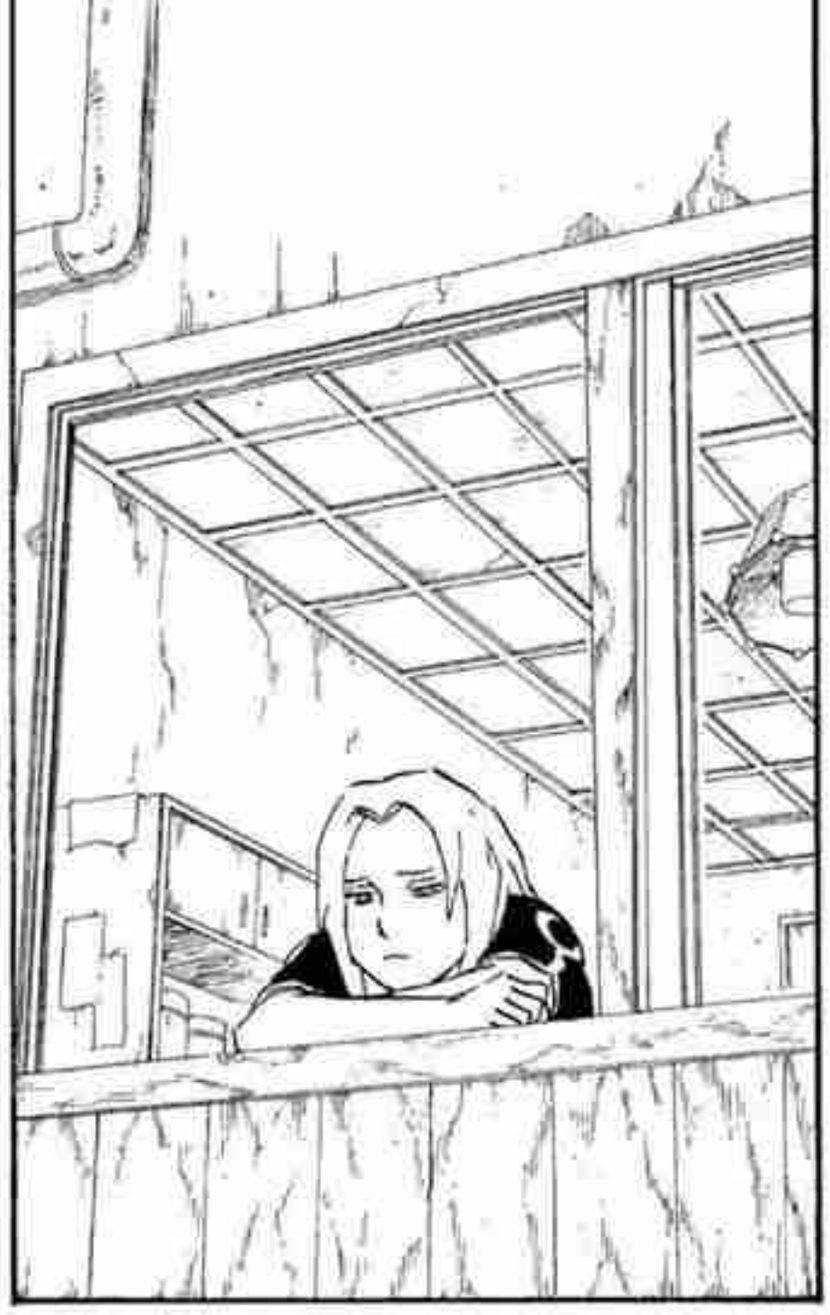
READ THIS WAY
Pfft
FIN OOO
ZSSH
FAP
!

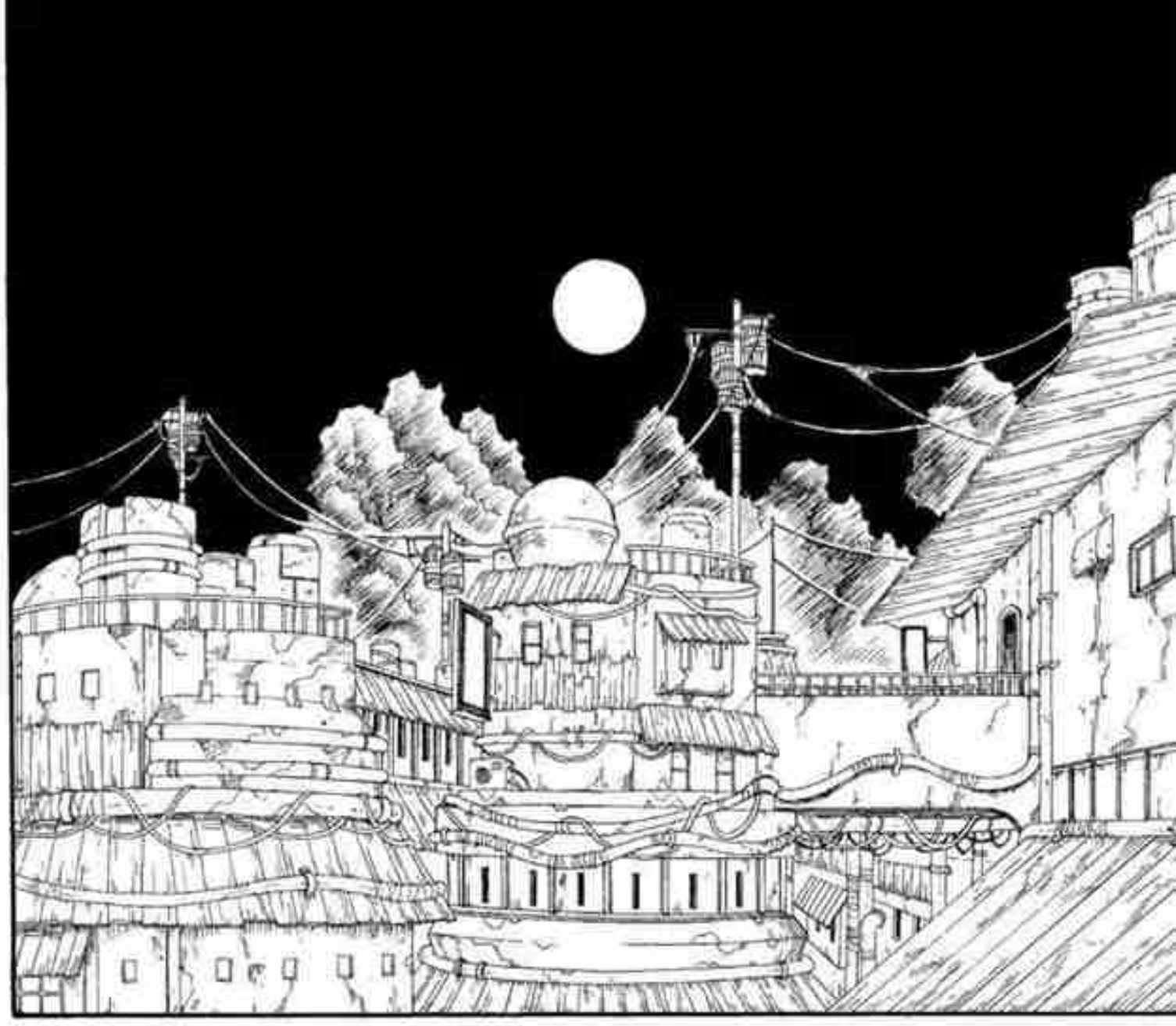
!
SH
SNAP
ARGH!
BOOM
!!

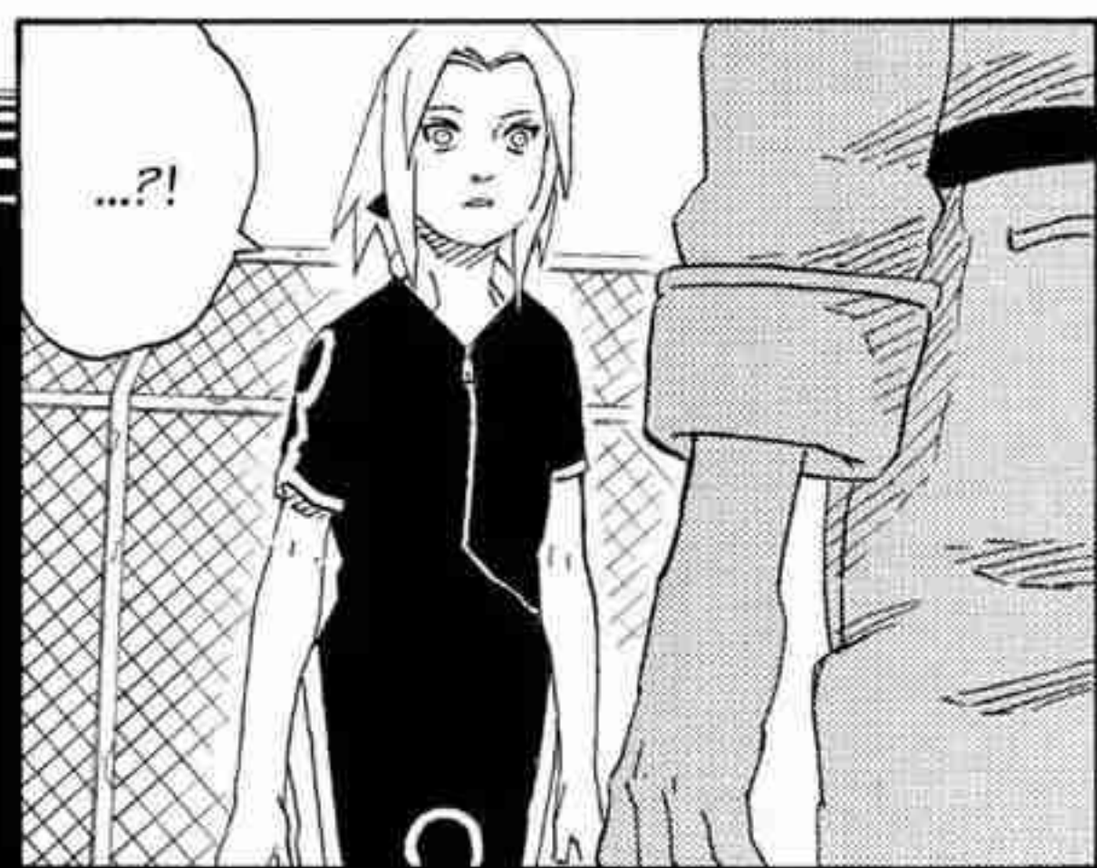
READ THIS WAY

BASH
WHAT?!
FWM
!!
DSSH
FWIP
DSSH
GRRP

READ THIS WAY
FWM
LAST ONE!
SHISHIRENDAN! BARRAGE OF LIONS!!
BOOM
CRAKK

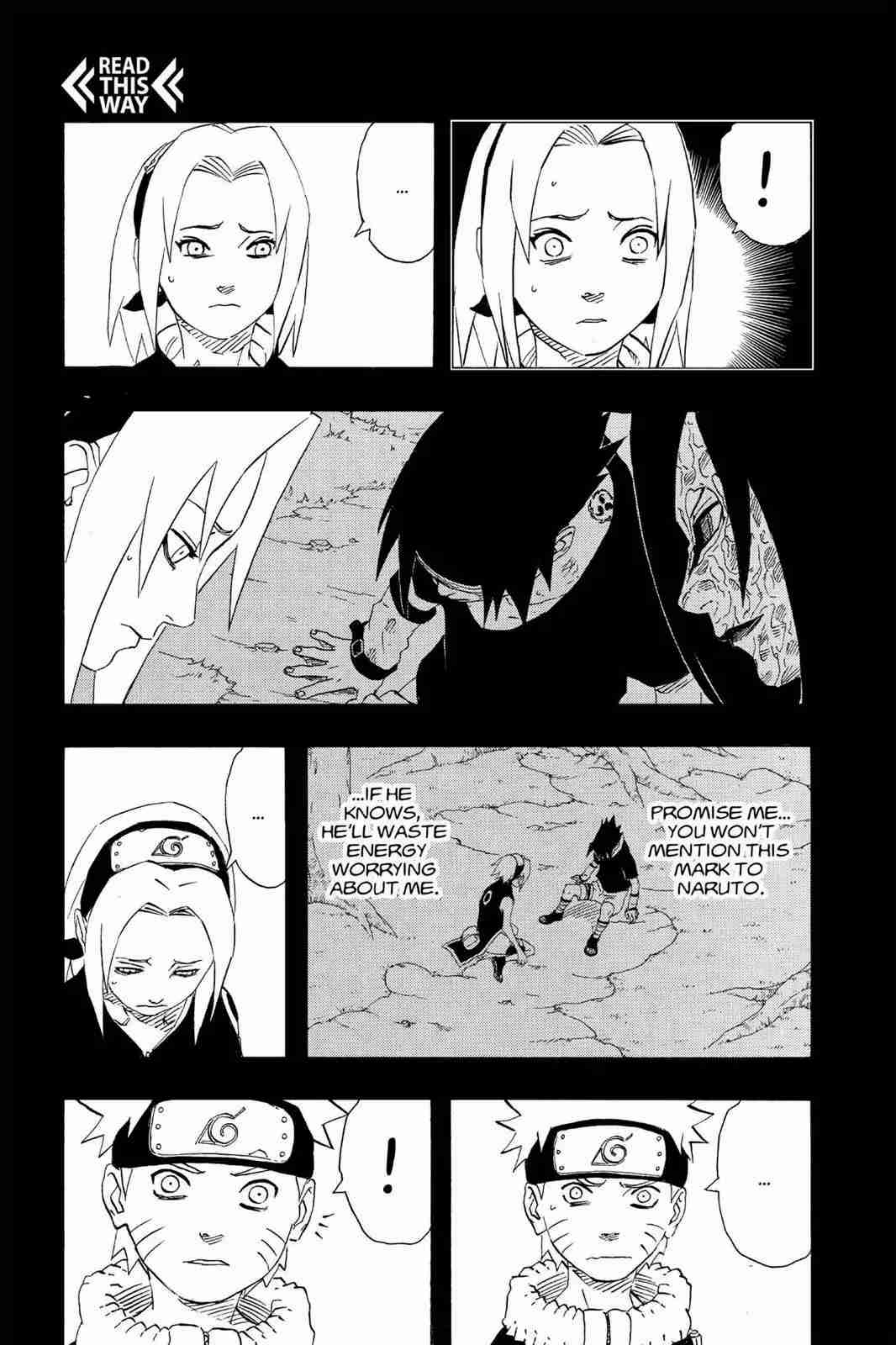





...?!

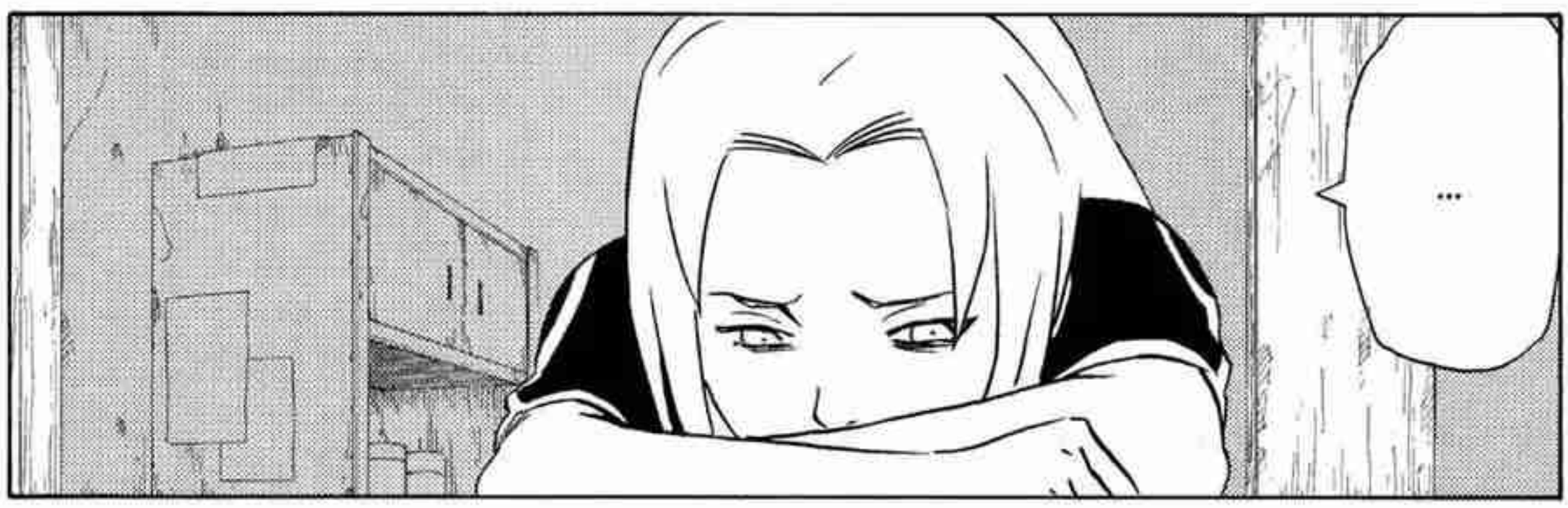
SAKURA...

DON'T GET IN MY WAY!

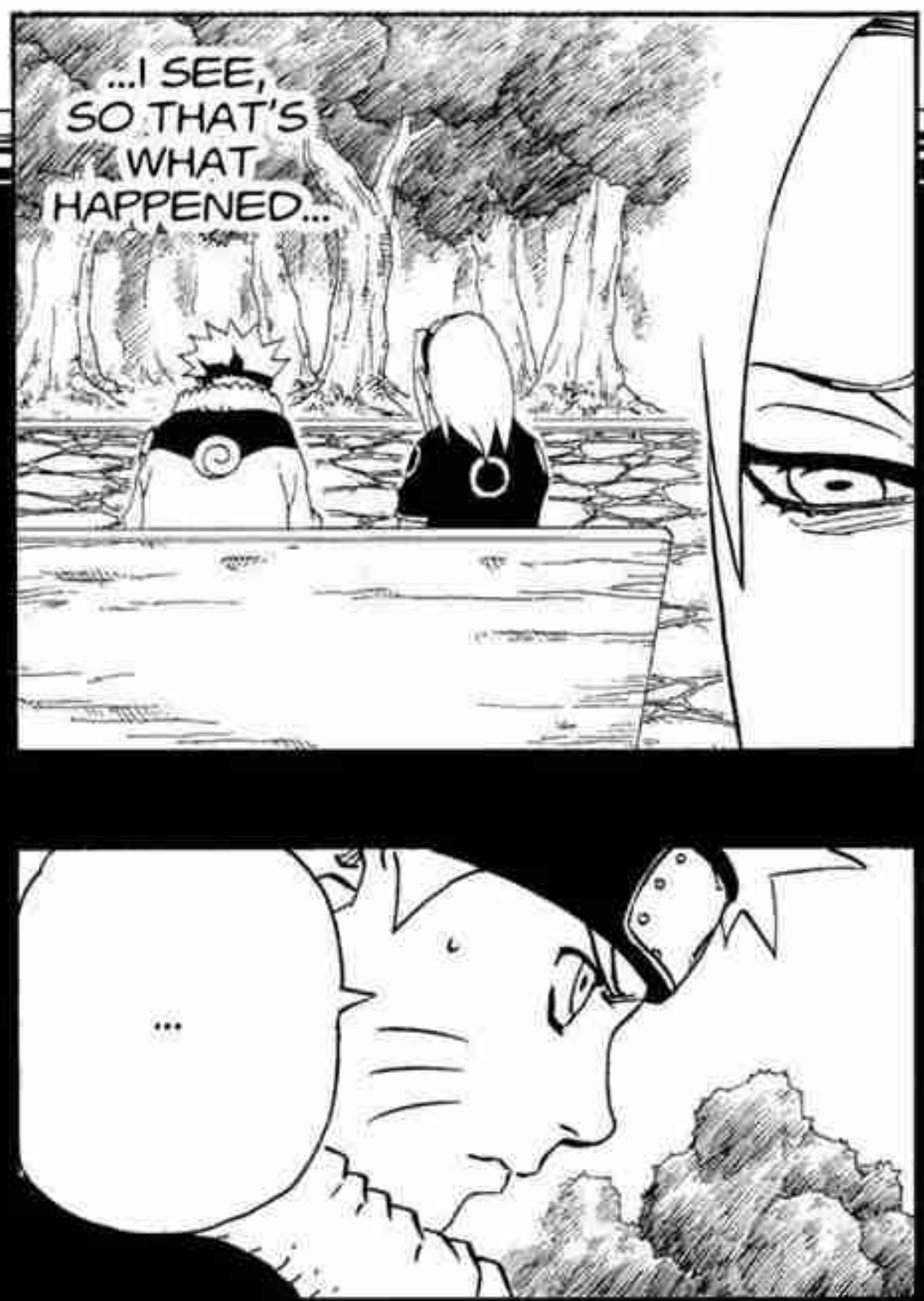

READ THIS WAY
...
!
...IF HE KNOWS, HE'LL WASTE ENERGY WORRYING ABOUT ME.
PROMISE ME... YOU WON'T MENTION THIS MARK TO NARUTO.
...
...
!

?!

COME WITH ME NOW!
NARUTO! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!


...

I WAS JUST WITH HIM.
OROCHI-MARU...
WHAT?!

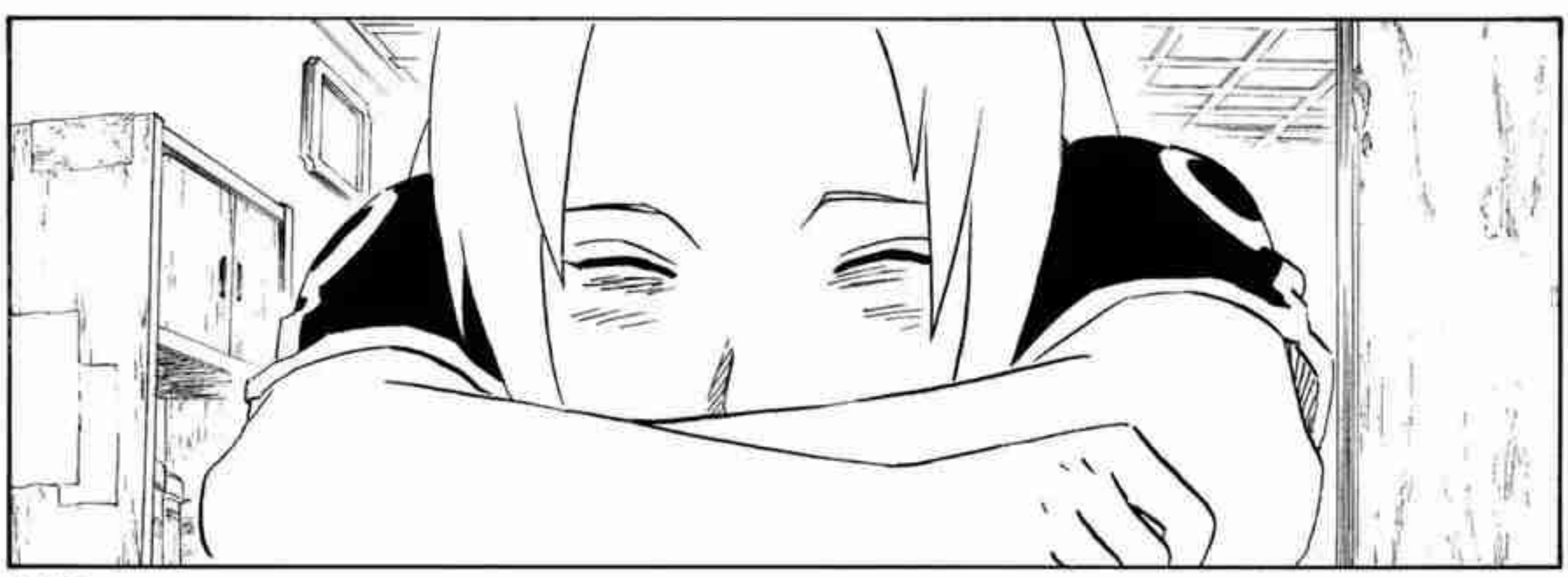

...I SEE, SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
...

...

...
...AND DANGEROUS ...
HE WAS ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI. HE'S REALLY STRONG...

HE'S SUPER STRONG TOO! I PROMISE!
SASUKE WON'T BE TEMPTED BY HIM!

DON'T WORRY!
!

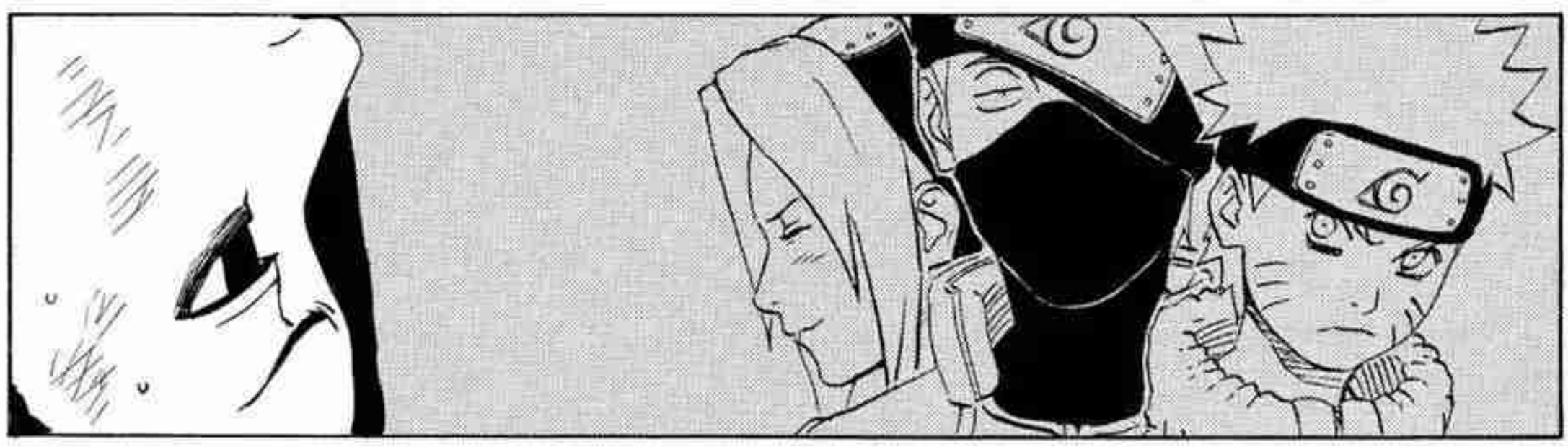


HMPH! WONDER WHY MASTER OROCHIMARU WANTS THIS GUY...

KIMIMARO WOULDA BEEN BETTER THAN THIS.

YOU'LL JUST KEEP ROTTING AWAY...
...PLAYING NINJA WITH YOUR FRIENDS HERE.

...YOU'LL REMAIN HUMAN... YOU WON'T GET ANY STRONGER.
IF YOU STAY IN THIS STUPID LITTLE VILLAGE...
ZSSH
ZSSH
ZSSH



MASTER OROCHIMARU WILL GIVE YOU POWER!
COME WITH US!

...

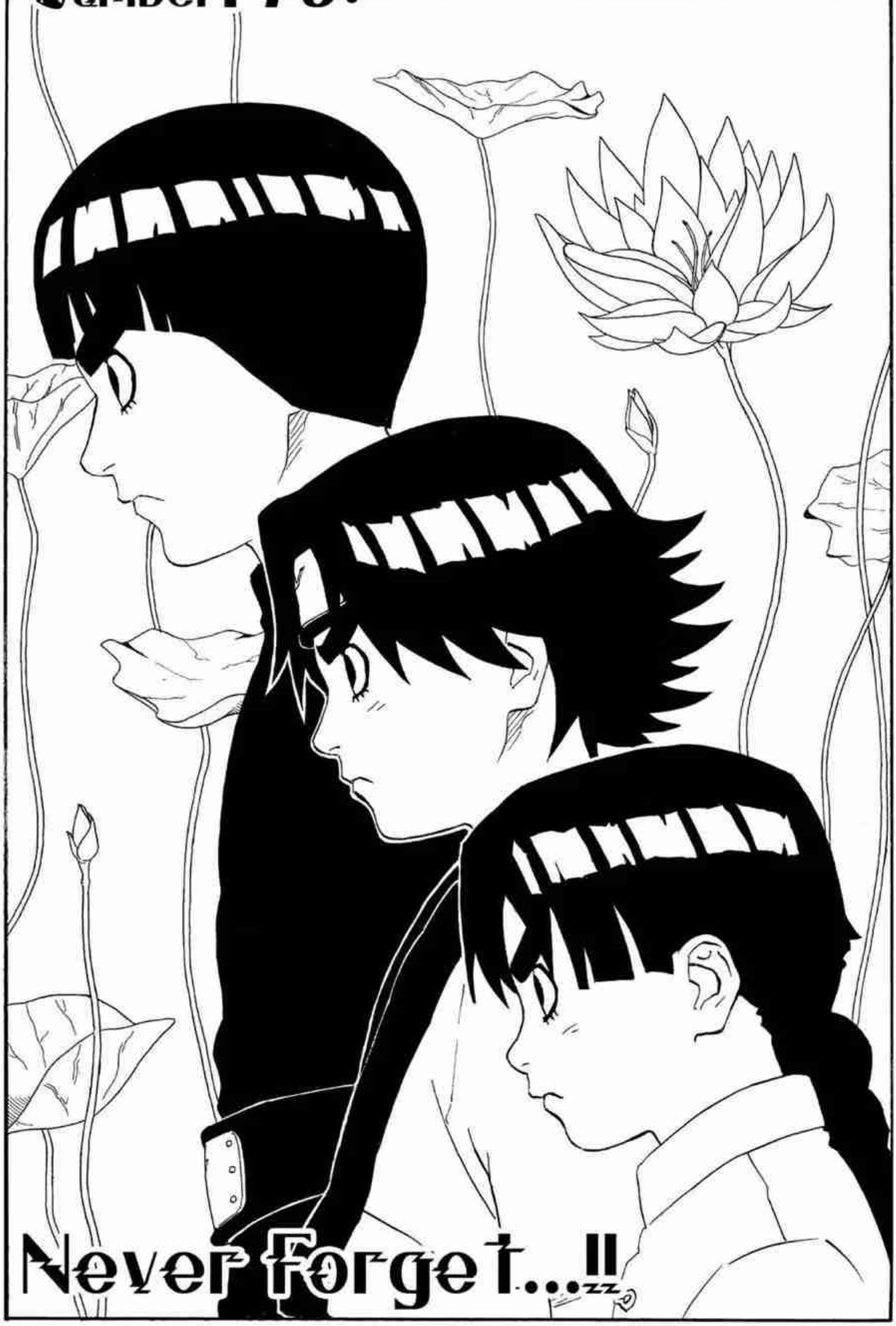
Mr. Kishimoto, Happy Birthday and congratulations on your marriage!! It's already Naruto's 4 year anniversary.
I wonder how many more years it'll take to reach the end.
Please take care of yourself and keep up the great work!!

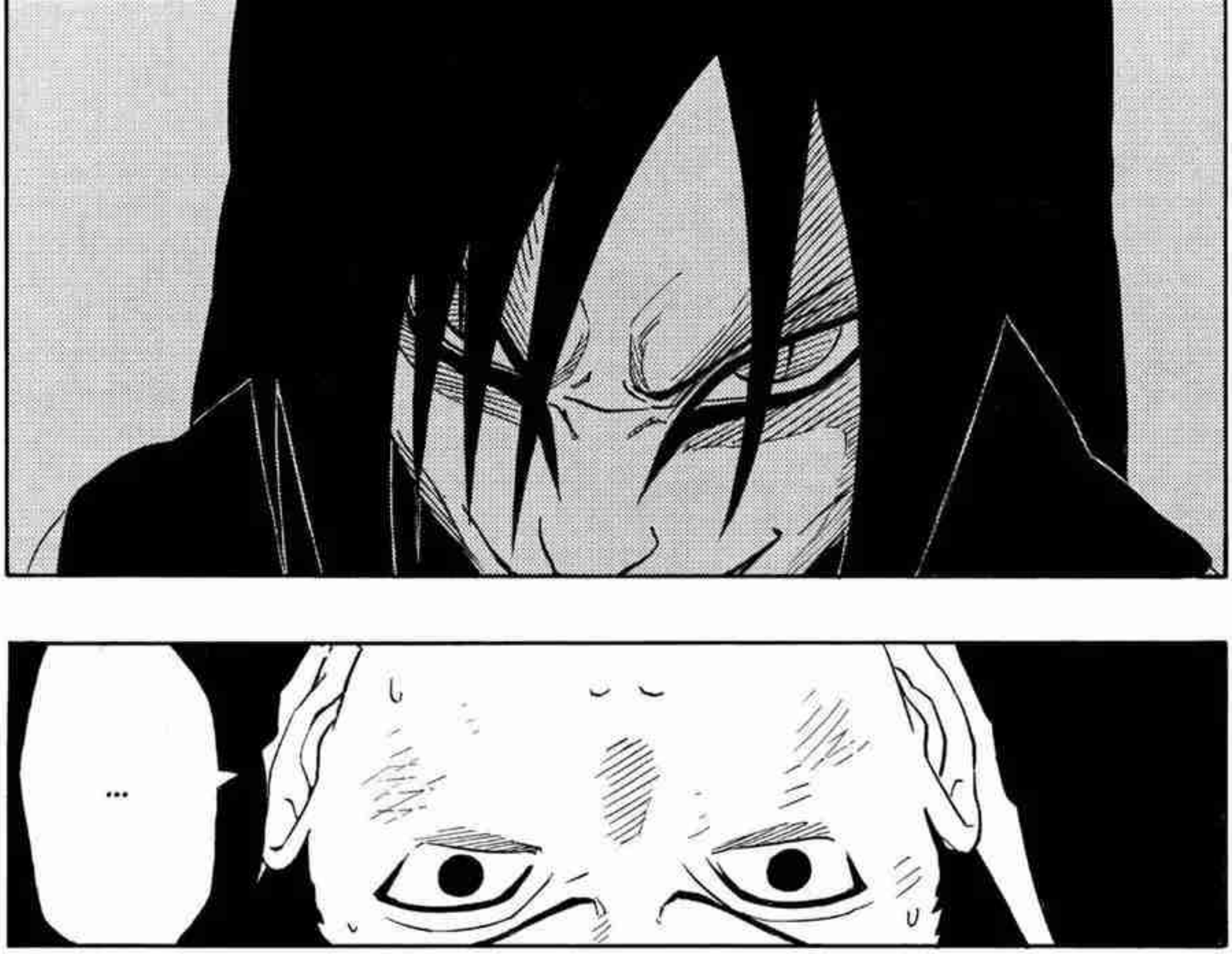
And take care of your family too!!

03. 11. 8

池本幹雄
Mikio Ikemoto

Number 179:




...

WUWF!
SO?!
UGH...
SZZZ

READ THIS WAY
...
!
HUSH
BAM
AGH!!
YOU COMING OR NOT?!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND!!
MASTER OROCHIMARU CAN BE SECRETIVE... HIM WASTIN' HIS TIME ON A WIMP LIKE YOU MAKES ME WANNA KILL YOU RIGHT NOW.
...ALTHOUGH I'M TOLD IT MEANS NOTHING IF WE FORCE YOU TO COME...

TRY IT...

DUG

YOU... HAVE A CURSE MARK...?
...

AAAA!!

GUH...

THW
ACK

ZZZZZ
YOU'RE NOT MASTER OROCHIMARU'S ONLY PET.

!!

IF YOU KEEP YOUR CURSE MARK IN A RELEASED STATE FOR TOO LONG...

...IT WILL ERODE YOUR BODY.

...SINCE YOU CAN'T EVEN CONTROL IT...

YOU SHOULDN'T USE IT SO RECKLESSLY.

... ESPECIALLY ...

...

SZZZZ...

SHHH...

ONCE THE MARK COMPLETELY ERODES YOU...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STILL IN FIRST STATE...

SO YOU'RE ONLY DYING SLOWLY...

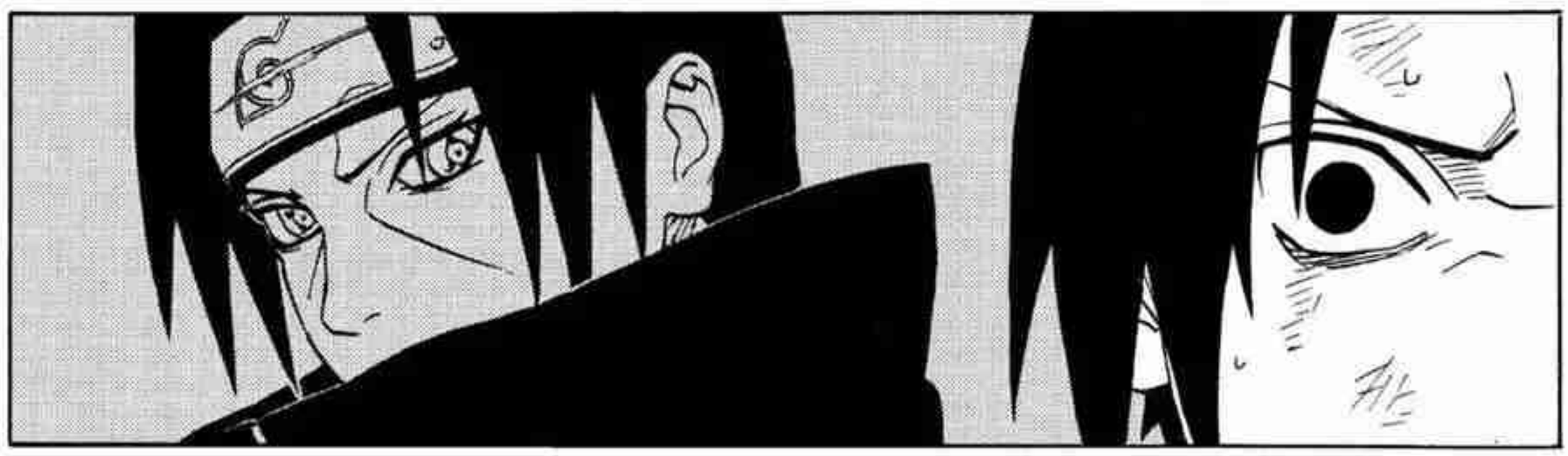
...FOREVER.

Shhh...

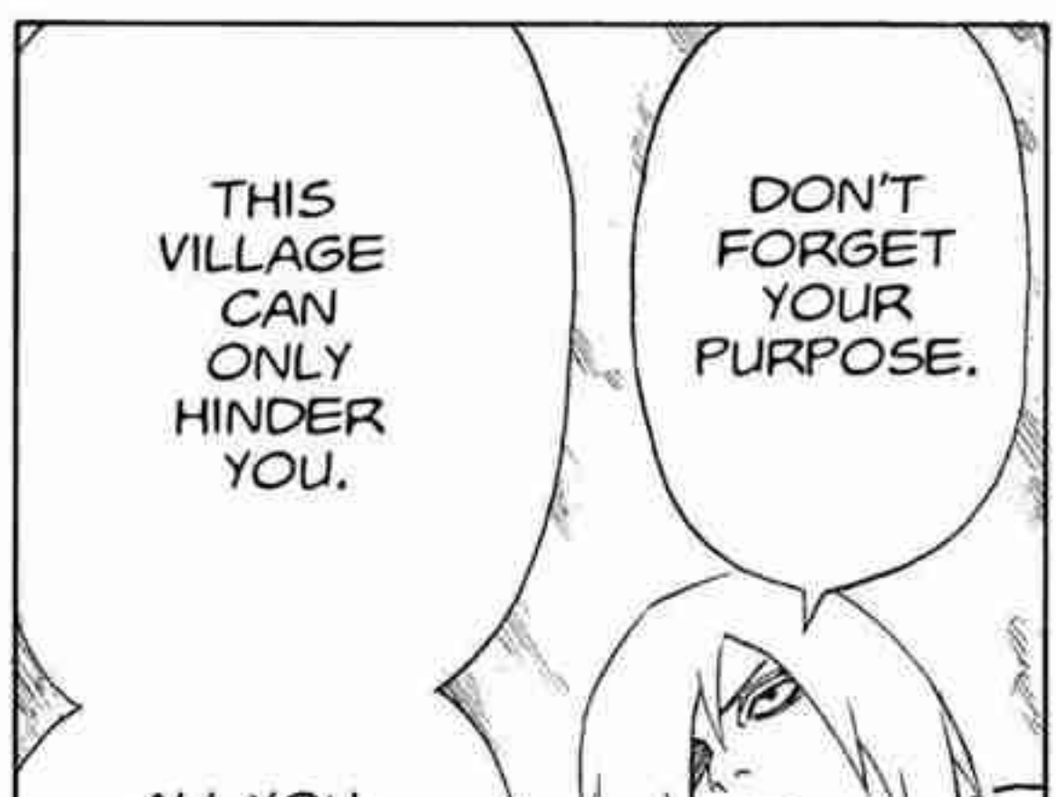
YOU'LL BE LOST...

TRYING TO FORGET ITACHI UCHIHA...?
TWITCH

YOU GONNA LIVE IN THIS WORTHLESS VILLAGE WITH YOUR FRIENDS? KEEP LICKING EACH OTHER'S WOUNDS?
WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?



THEN YOU CAN GAIN AN EVEN GREATER POWER.

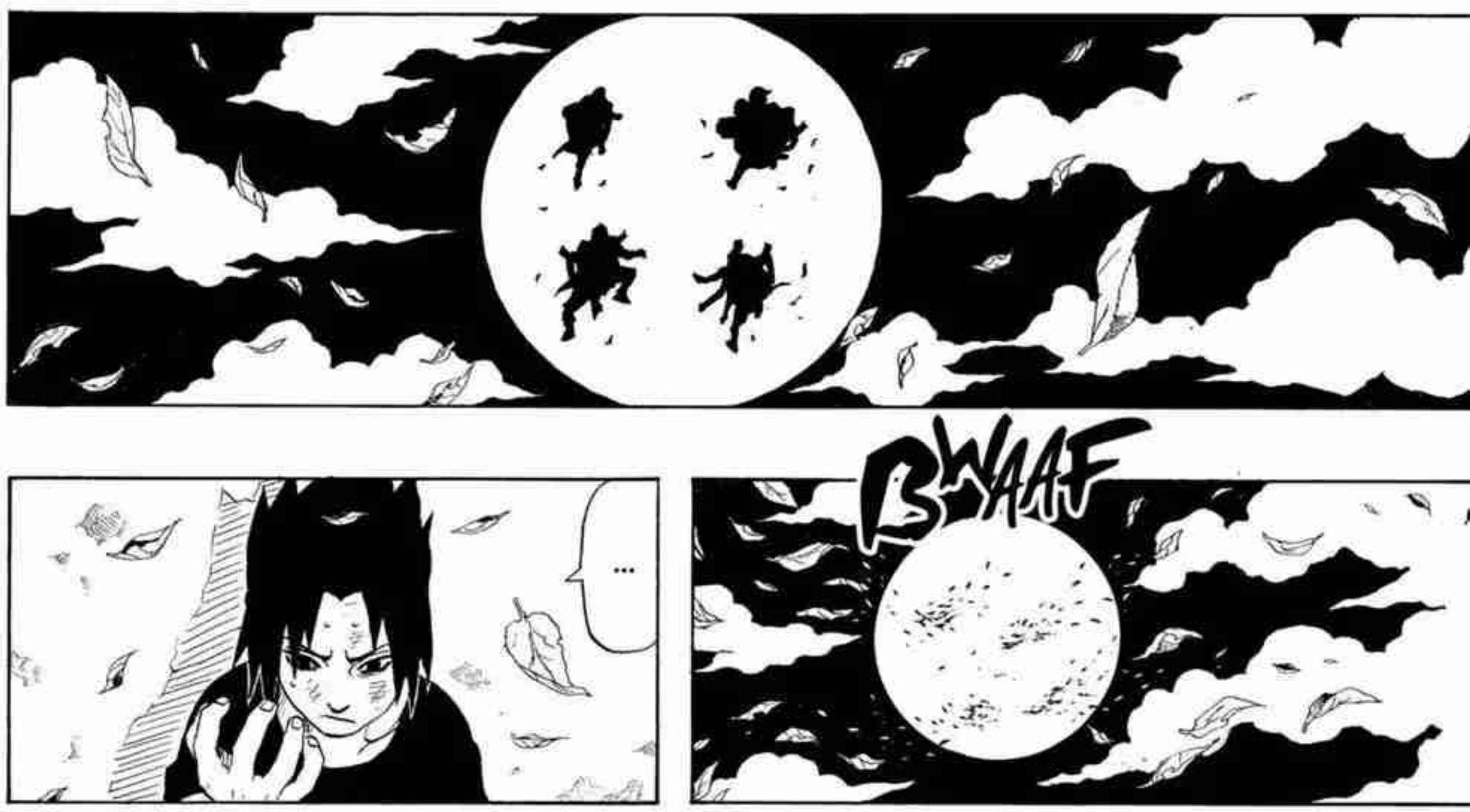

THIS VILLAGE CAN ONLY HINDER YOU.
DON'T FORGET YOUR PURPOSE.

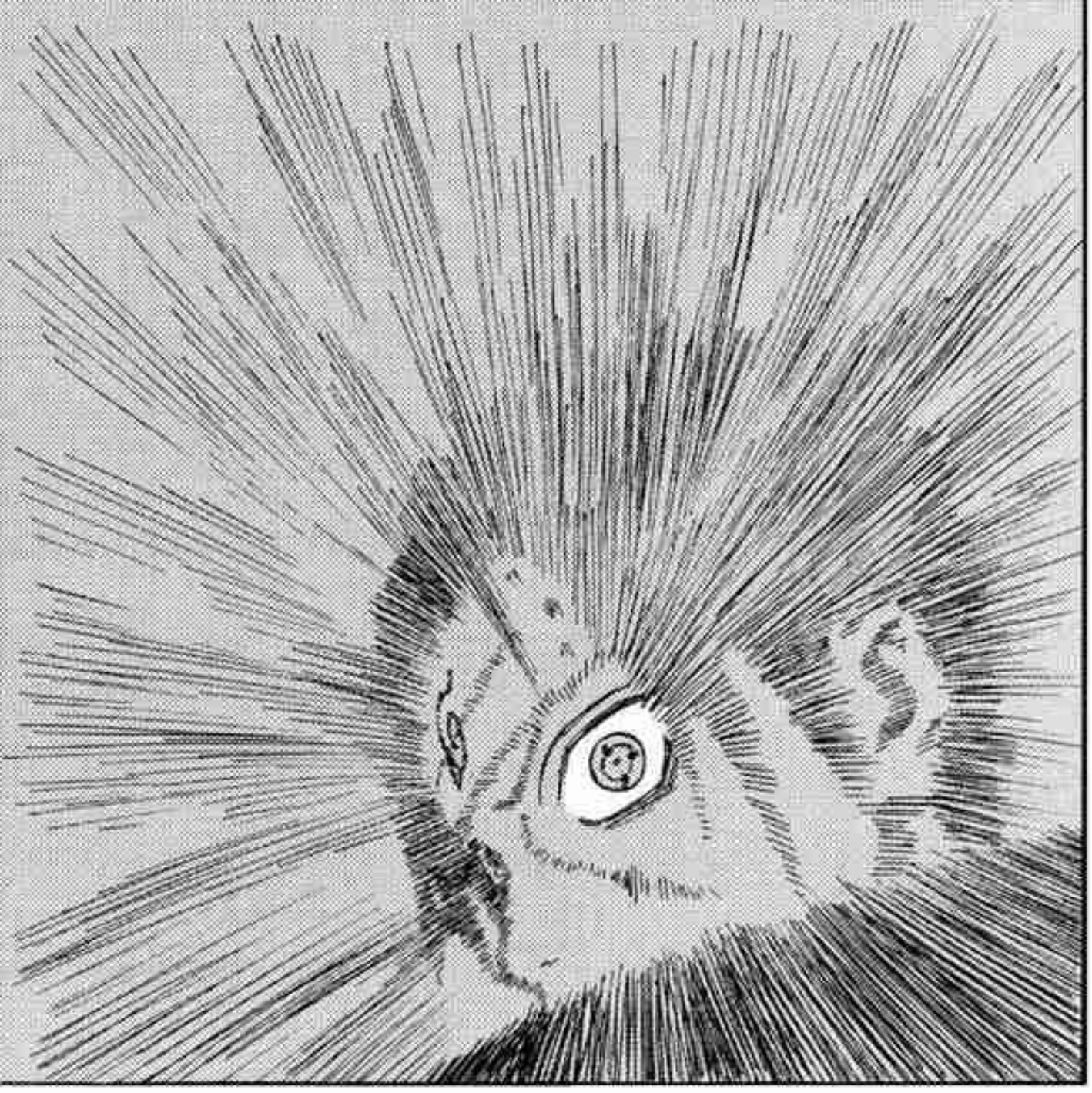
...

ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SNIP YOUR WORTHLESS TIES.

ZSSH ZSSH ZSSH ZSSH

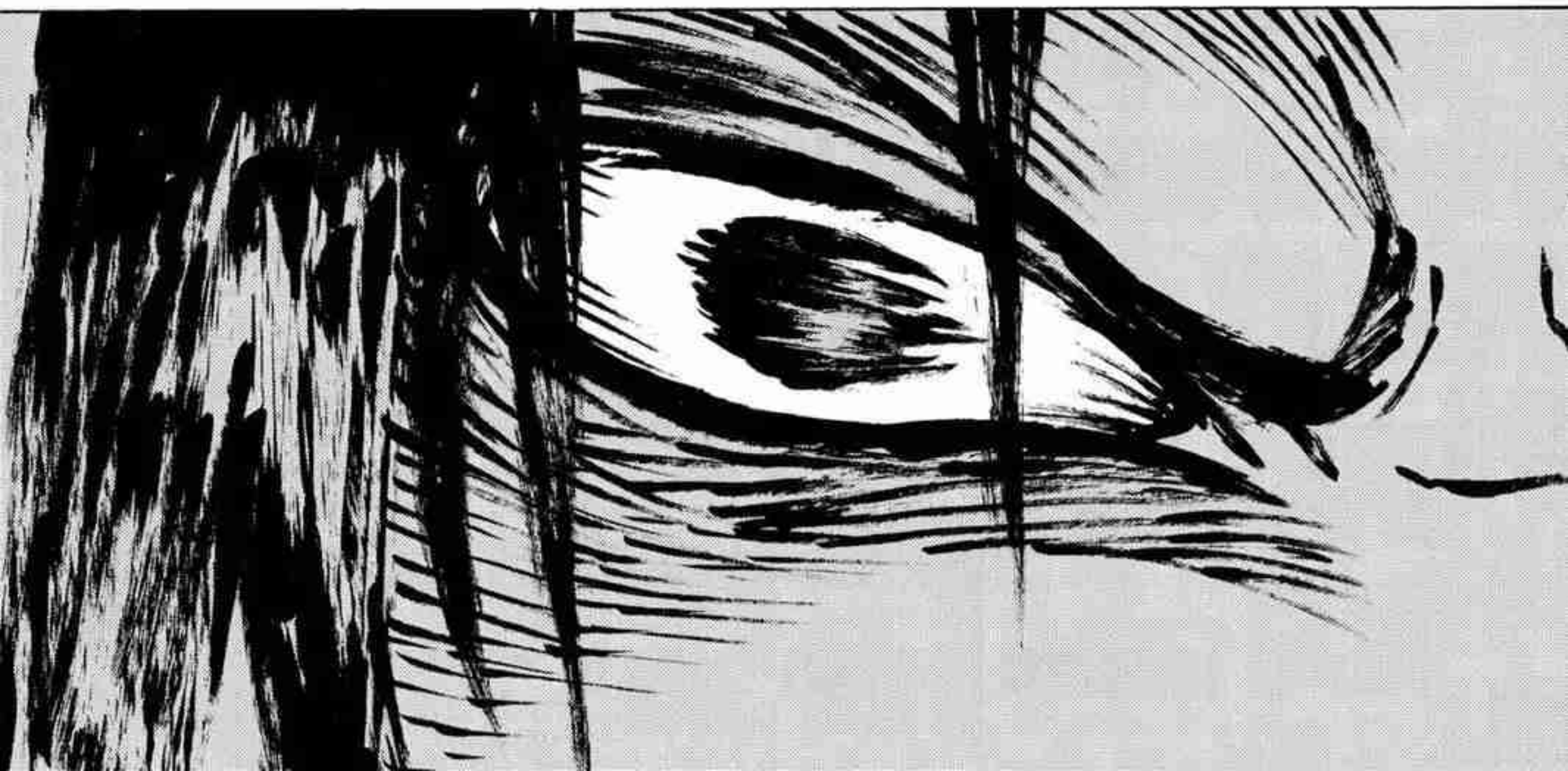
DON'T FORGET YOUR PURPOSE...

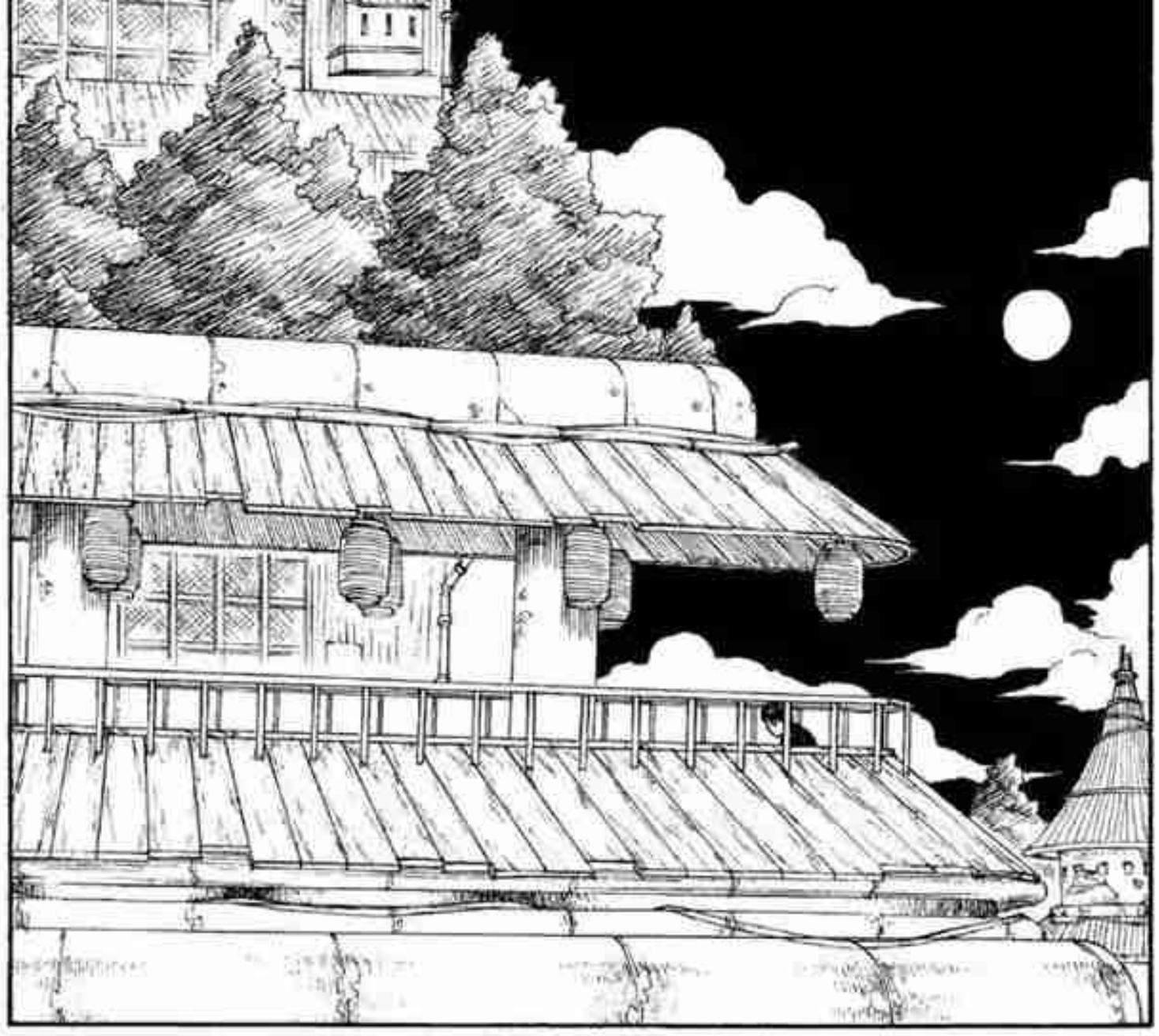




FLUFF

CRACKLE





...
PHEW—

BUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER !!
RRR

...
DRIP...

!
YOUNG MAN...

...
PHEW—

HENGE NO JUTSU! THE ART OF TRANS-FORMA-TION!!

IF YOU TRY EVEN HARDER, YOU WILL BECOME A GREAT SHINOBI!

BEAM

THE MARK OF YOUTH IS SUBTLE ARDOR!!

...CAN STILL BECOME A SPLENDID NINJA!

IT'S MY ONLY GOAL!

EVEN A PERSON WHO CAN'T USE NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU...

MASTER--!!

AND...

SHWP

Twitch

HEY YOU!! WHAT'S SO FUNNY!!!

SHBAK

HMPH.

WHAT? ARE YOU DUMB OR SOMETHING?

...YOU CAN'T USE NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU, IT MEANS YOU'RE NOT A NINJA.

IF...

THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY TRUE IF YOU HAVE PASSION!!

...

Slump...

!

!!

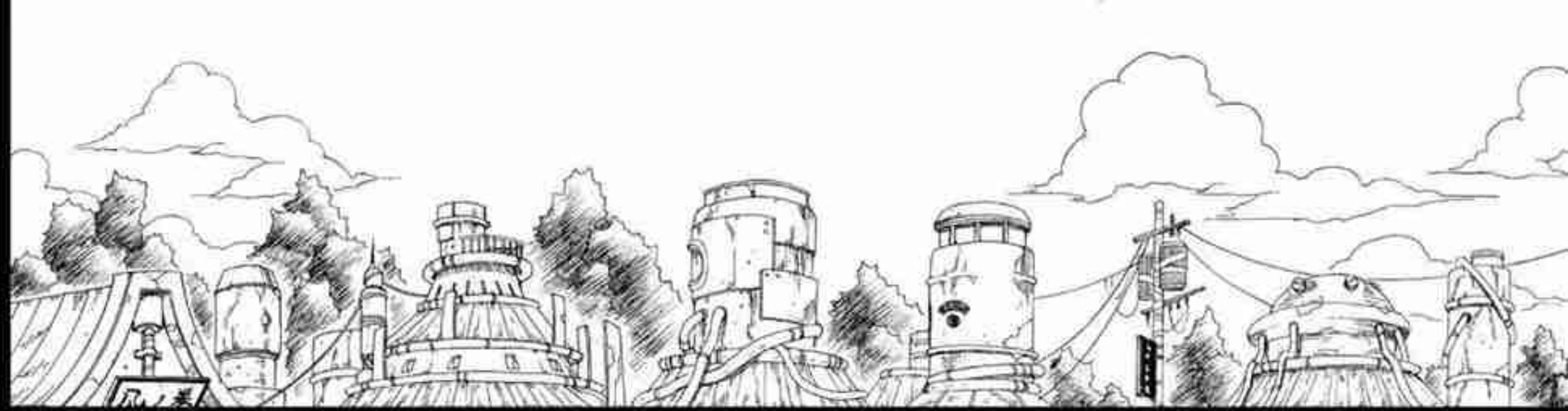
...

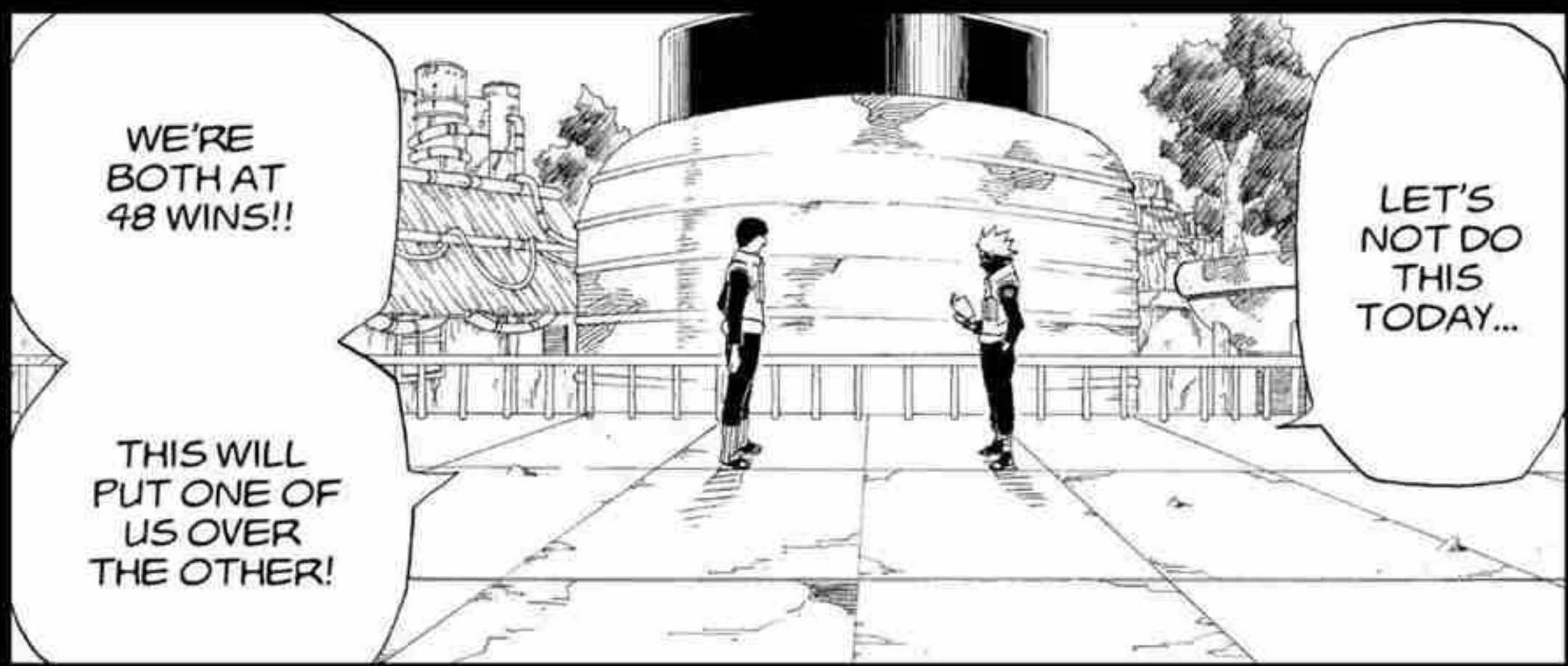
BUT IT WILL TAKE HARD WORK!!

...I WAS DRAWN TO MASTER GUY.

...YOU CAN BECOME A SPLENDID NINJA!!

IF YOU CAN COMPETE AGAINST A TRUE RIVAL...




WE'RE BOTH AT 48 WINS!!
THIS WILL PUT ONE OF US OVER THE OTHER!
LET'S NOT DO THIS TODAY...

...YEAH! SO, WHAT'LL IT BE?
TAIJUTSU? 100 METER DASH?
GUESS YOU WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER...
FINE... THEN IT'S MY TURN TO DECIDE WHAT EVENT WE'LL COMPETE IN...

...ROSHAMBO!
HOW ABOUT...

IT LOOKS LIKE IT...
I GET THE FEELING HE'S JUST BEIN' PLAYED WITH, DON'T YOU?

I SEE...

ROSHAM-BO...?!
YOU KNOW HOW THEY SAY LUCK'S PART OF SKILL?

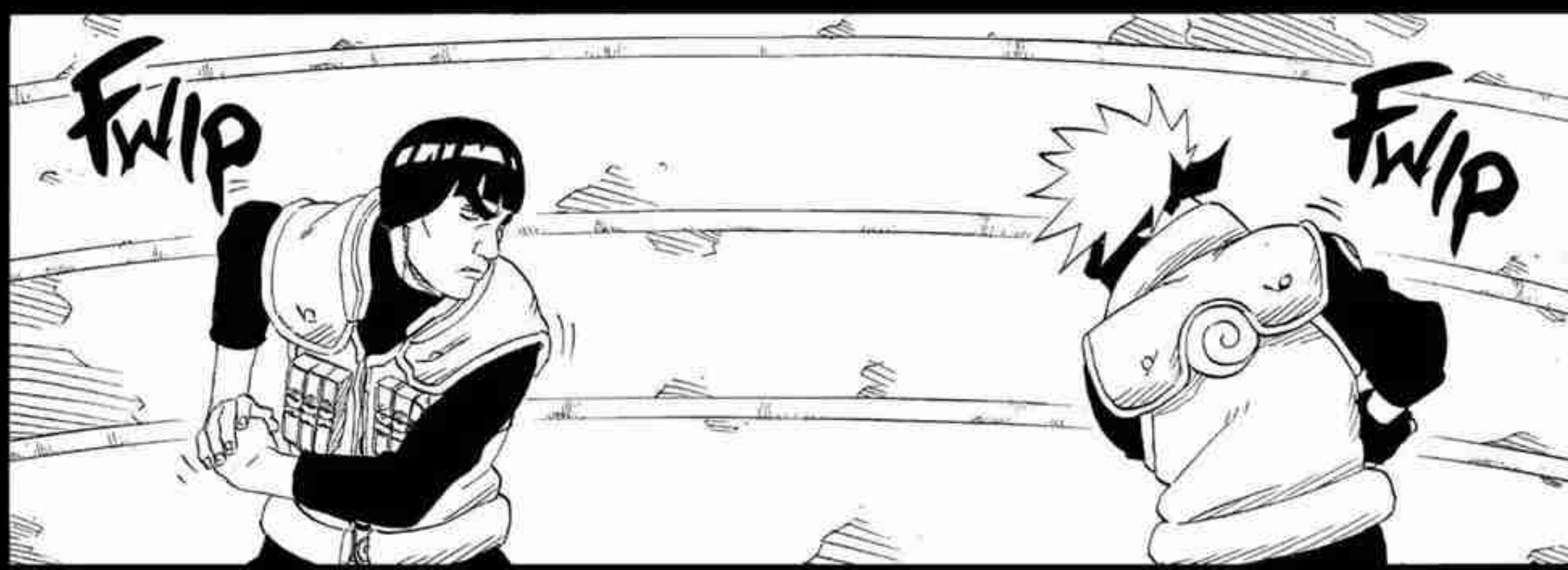
THAT'S A PROMISE!!!
SHWAP
I WILL NOT LOSE!!
IF I DO, I'LL DO 500 LAPS AROUND KONOHA DOIN' A HANDSTAND!!

MAKIN' UP YOUR OWN RULES...
NOT THIS AGAIN...

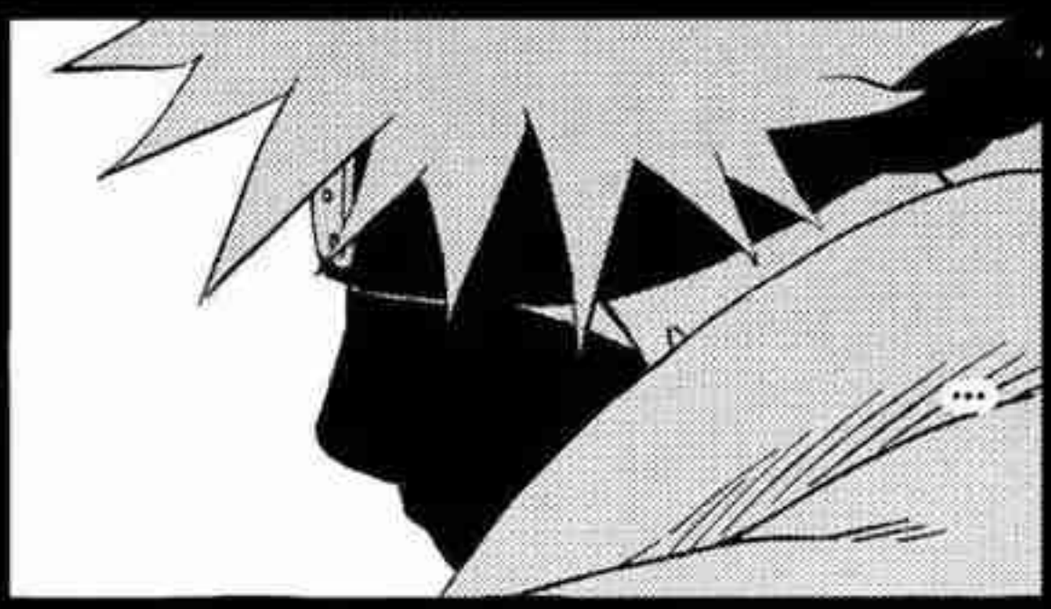
...

...IT'S WAY TOO ABSURD.
...TRUE... EVEN MASTER GUY COULDN'T DO THAT.

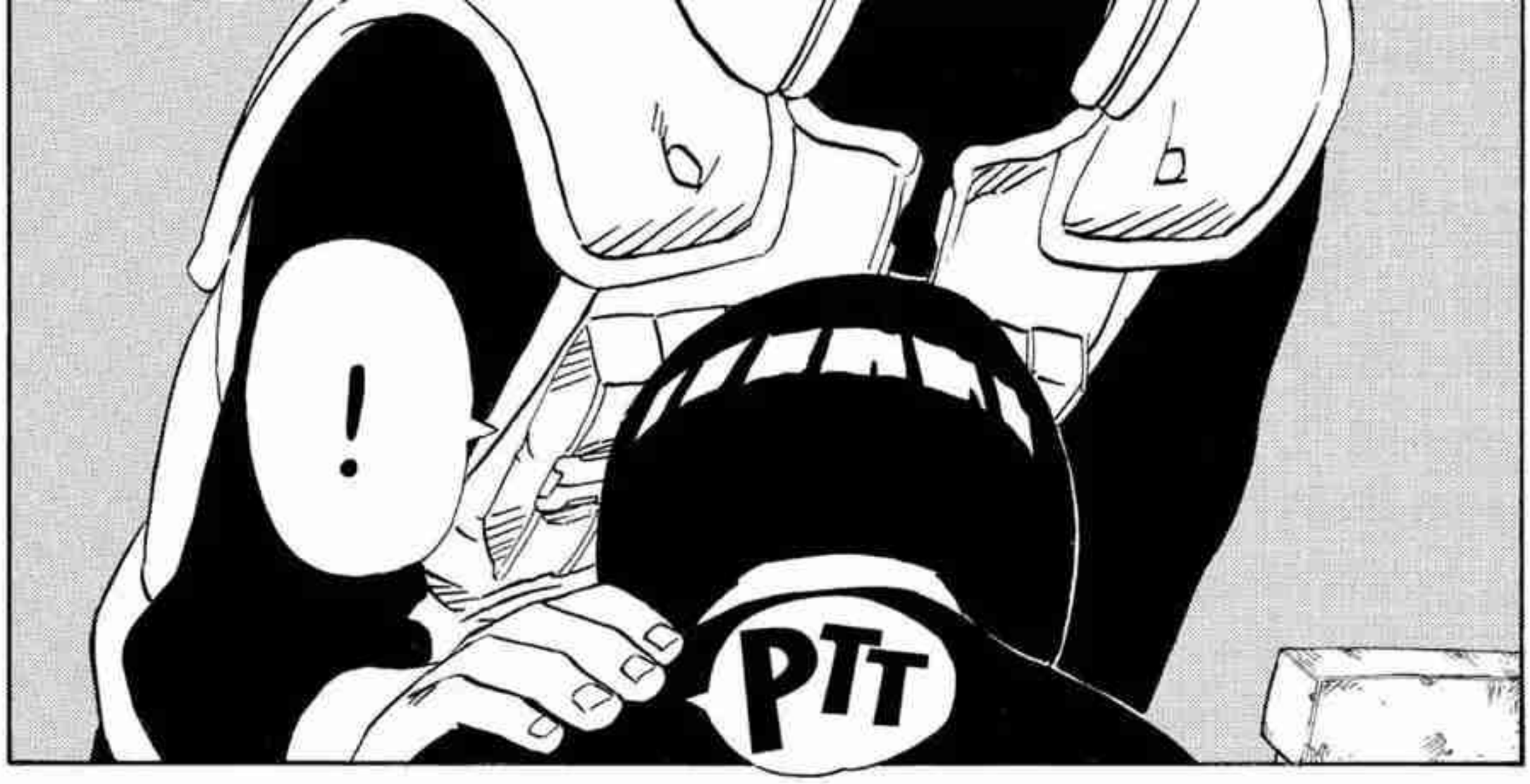
HE'S ACTING LIKE A CHILD...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... THIS IS SO STUPID...


FWIP
FWIP

...


...

ROSHAM...!!
ZSSH
ZSSH

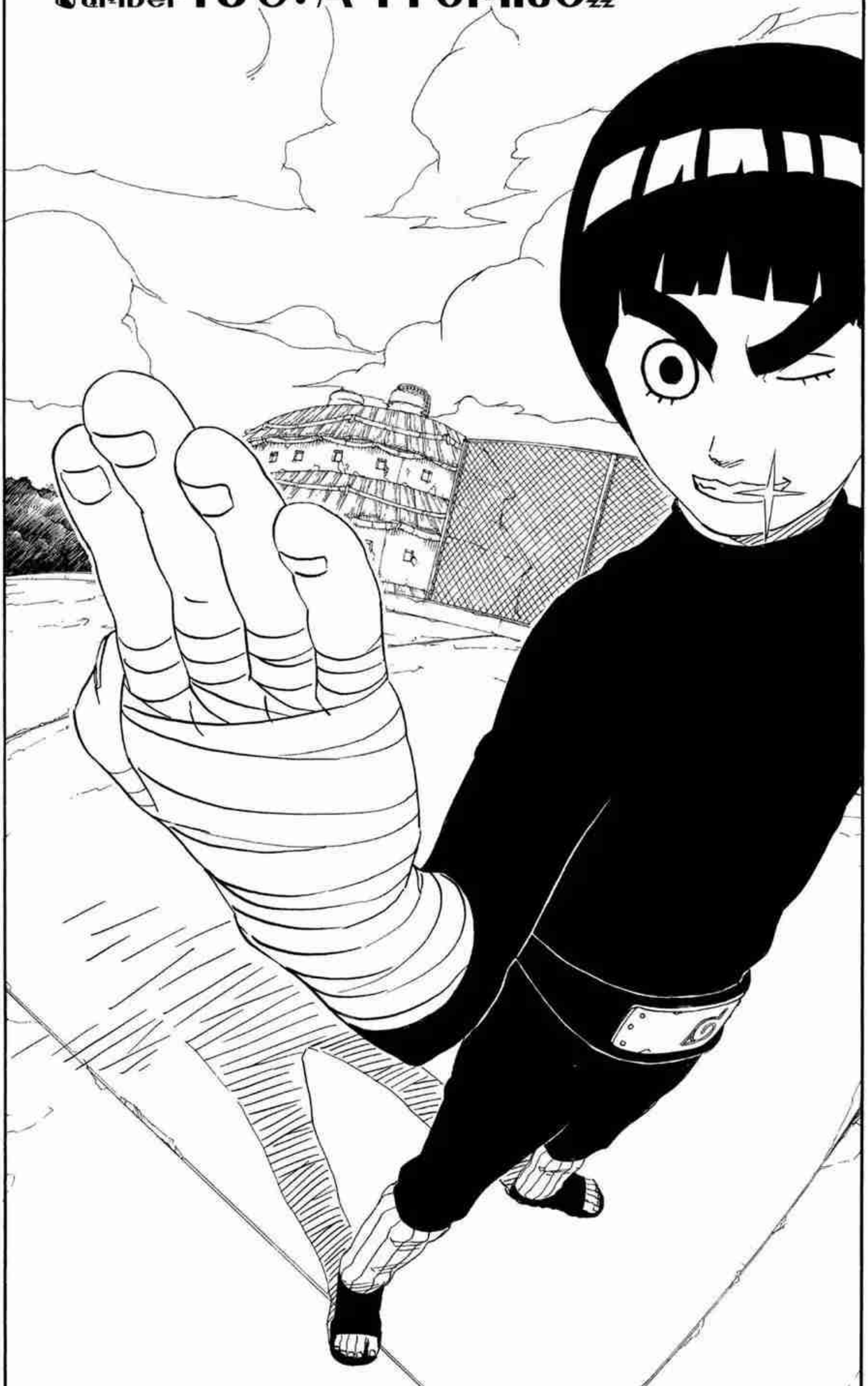

!
PTT

I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE...

MASTER GUY...

4th Anniversary!!
WORK JUST HARD ENOUGH SO YOU DON'T DIE, LIKE SASUKE. JUST LIVE!! K.TAKAHASHI

Number 180: A Promise!!



I KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!
HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS HERE...?

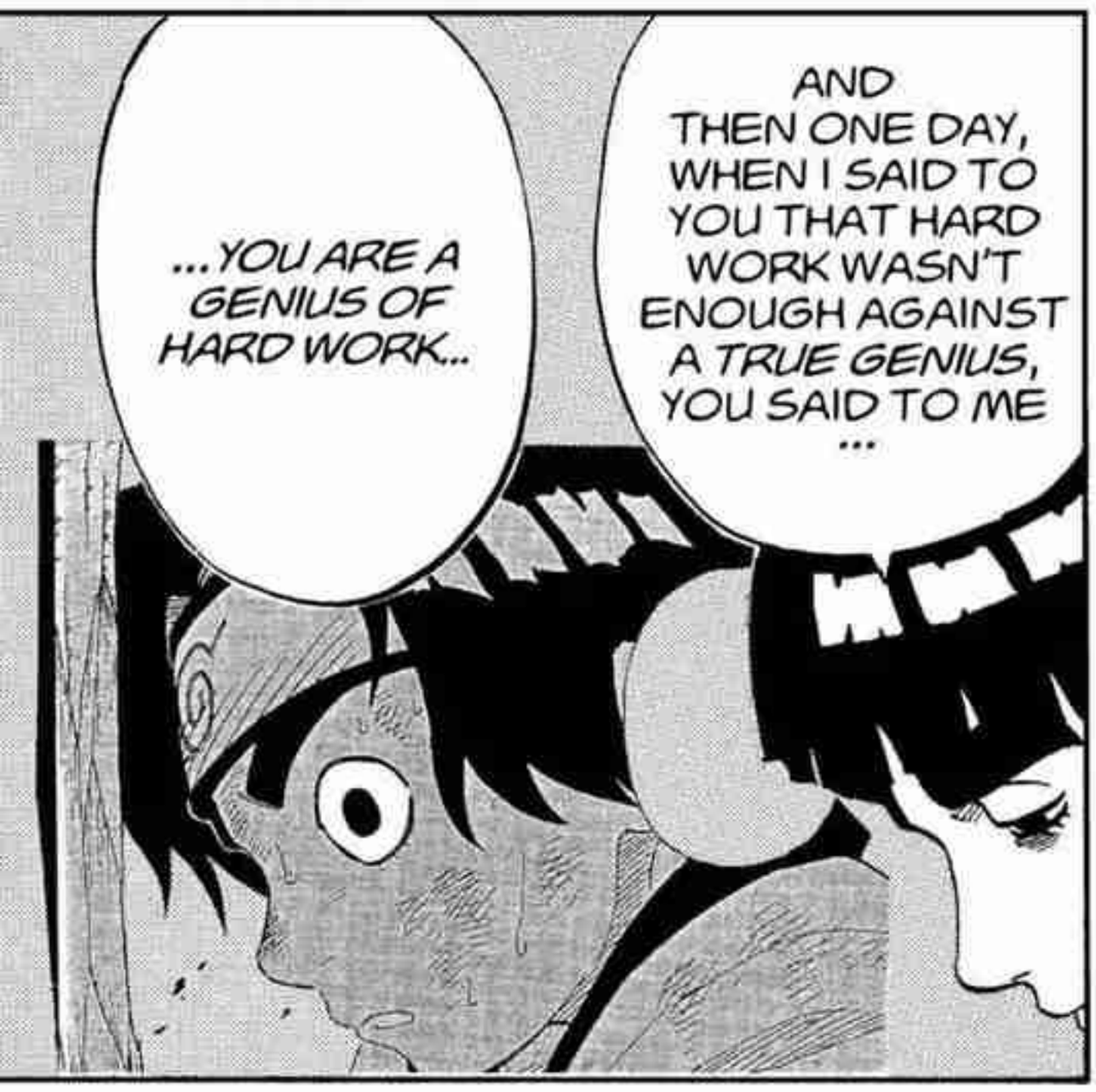
...

SPARKLE

...

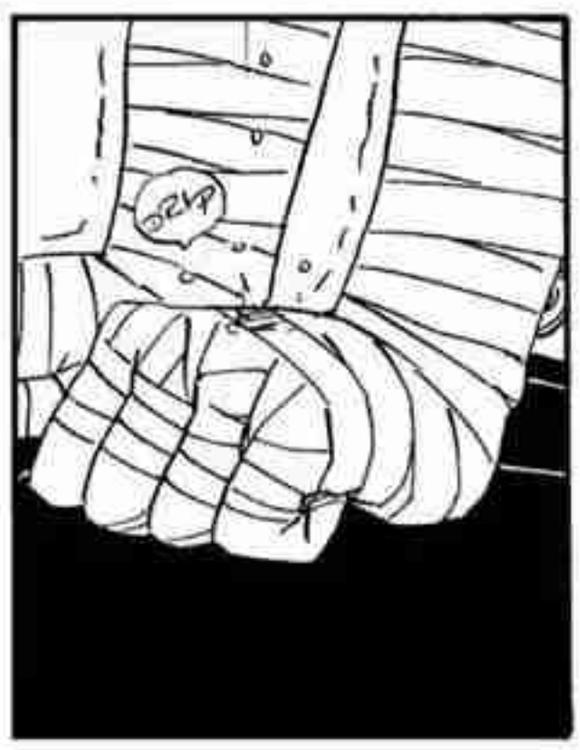
READ THIS WAY
...
I SWORE ON...
WHEN I FIRST BECAME A GENIN...
ALL MY DREAMS HERE.
I WAS SERIOUS.
ALTHOUGH NEJI LAUGHED AT ME...
...CAN STILL BECOME A SPLENDID NINJA!
IT'S MY ONLY GOAL!!
I WANT TO PROVE THAT EVEN A PERSON WHO CAN'T USE NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU...
...AND...
...THAT ONE NEEDS A TRUE RIVAL TO BECOME STRONG ENOUGH...
YOU TAUGHT ME...

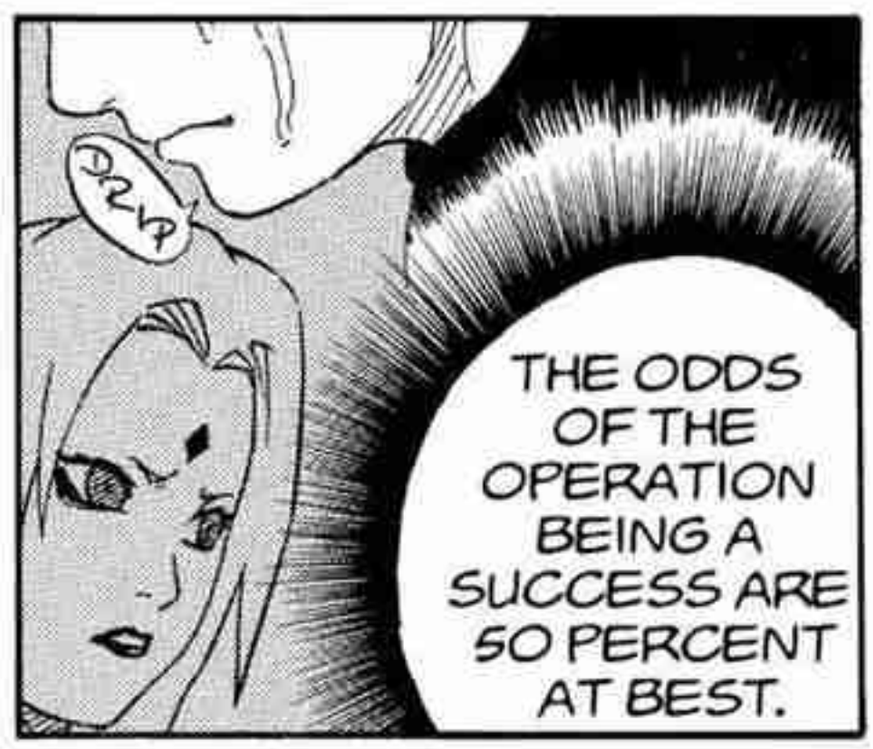
THAT IT WOULD TAKE HARD WORK...


...YOU ARE A GENIUS OF HARD WORK...
AND THEN ONE DAY, WHEN I SAID TO YOU THAT HARD WORK WASN'T ENOUGH AGAINST A TRUE GENIUS, YOU SAID TO ME ...

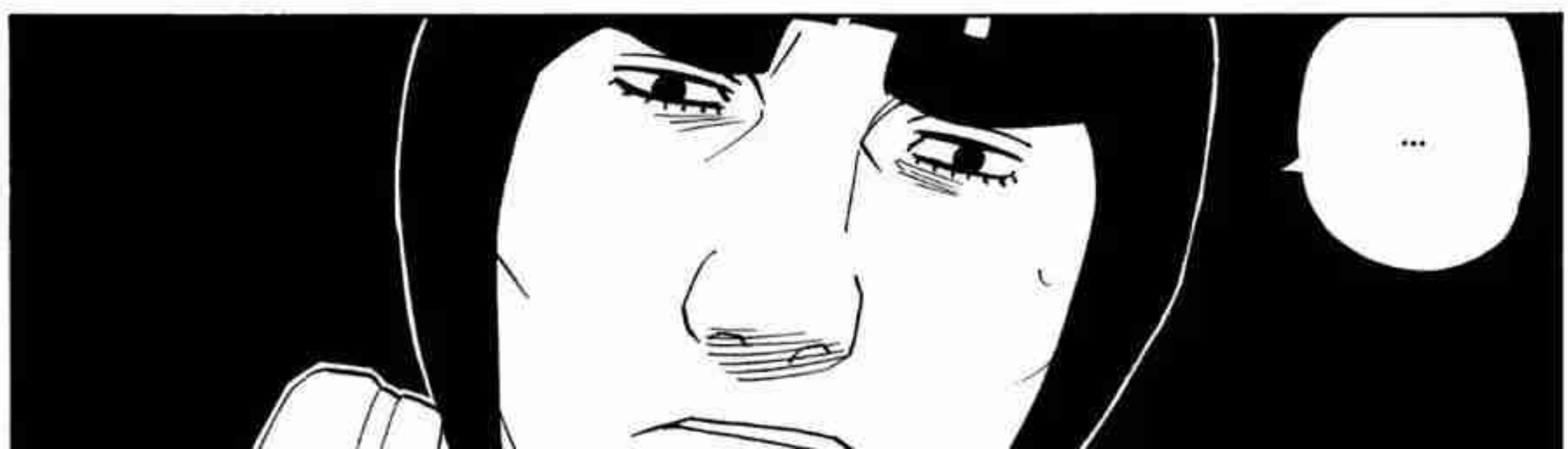
HOP
HOP

YOU TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF BELIEVING IN MYSELF.


DRIP


DRIP
THE ODDS OF THE OPERATION BEING A SUCCESS ARE 50 PERCENT AT BEST.

...


...

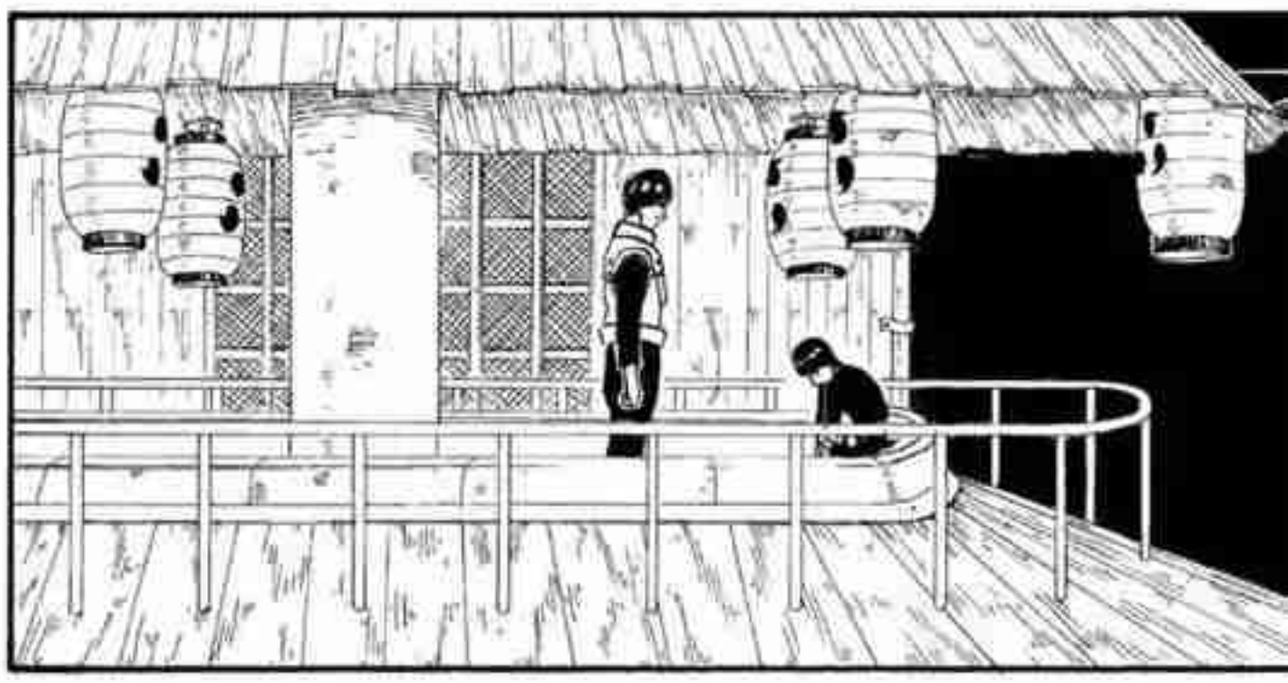
BUT... THIS TIME...

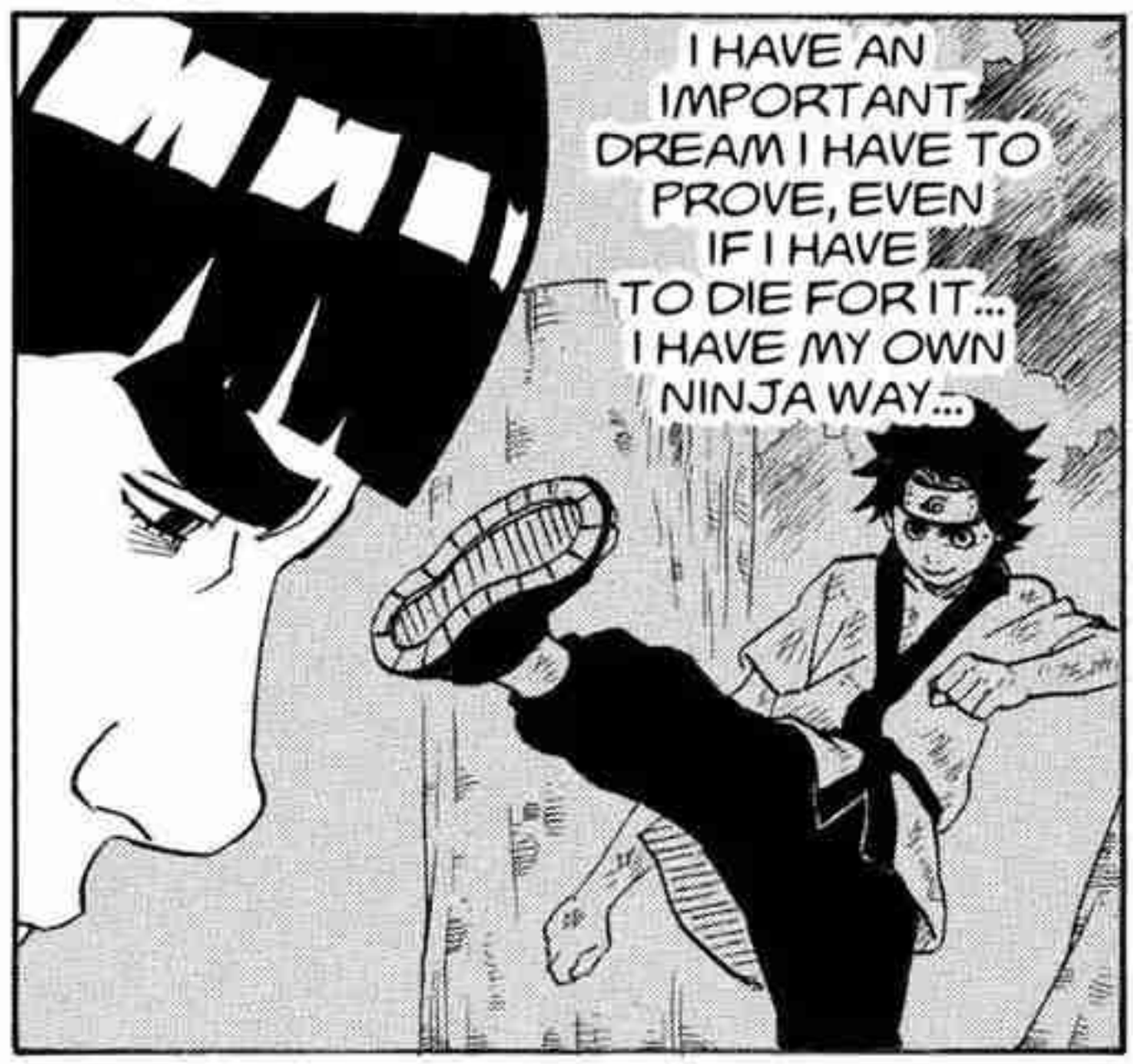
DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

WORKING HARD OR BELIEVING IN MYSELF WON'T CHANGE A THING!




I HAVE AN IMPORTANT DREAM I HAVE TO PROVE, EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE FOR IT... I HAVE MY OWN NINJA WAY...

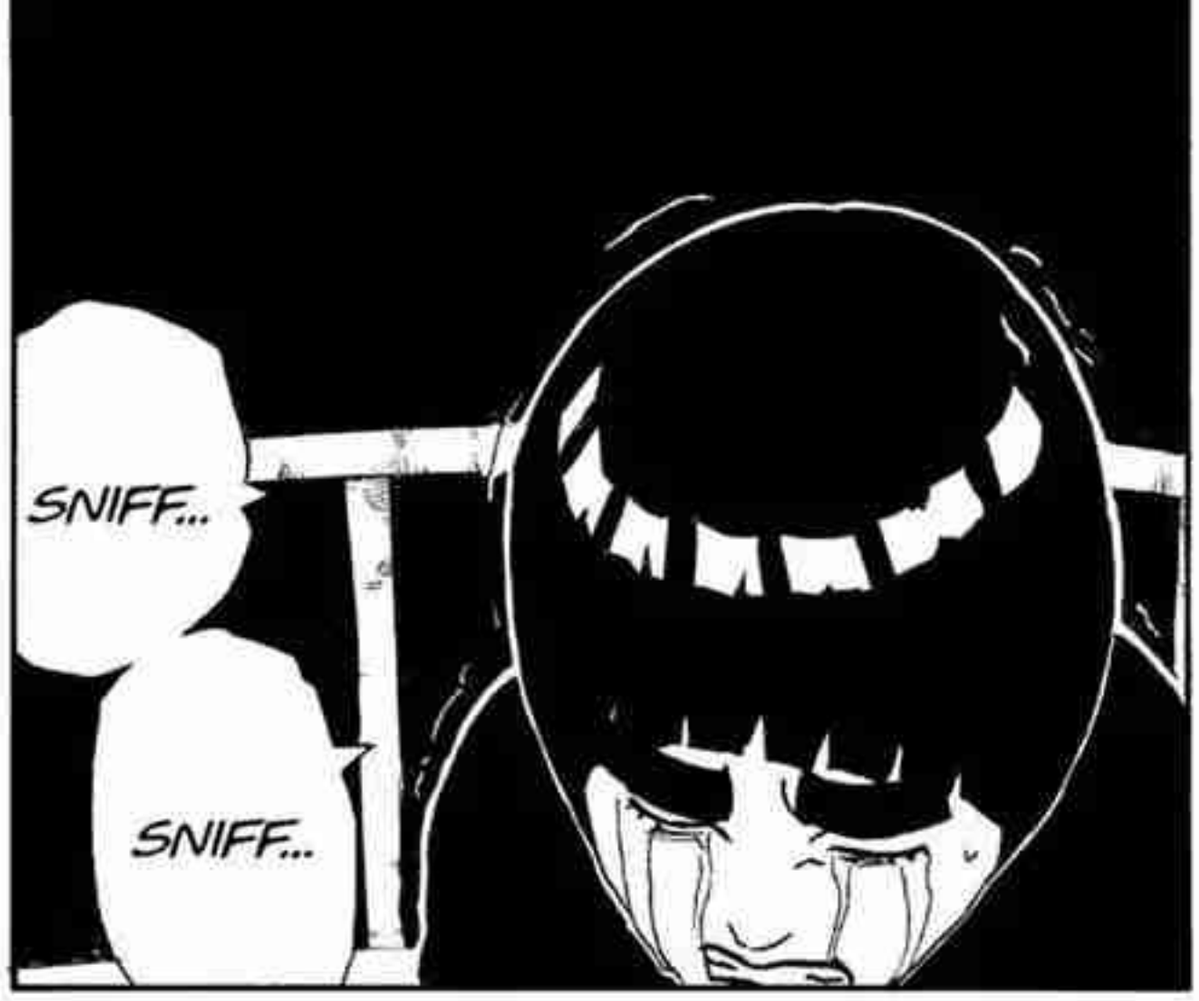
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?!

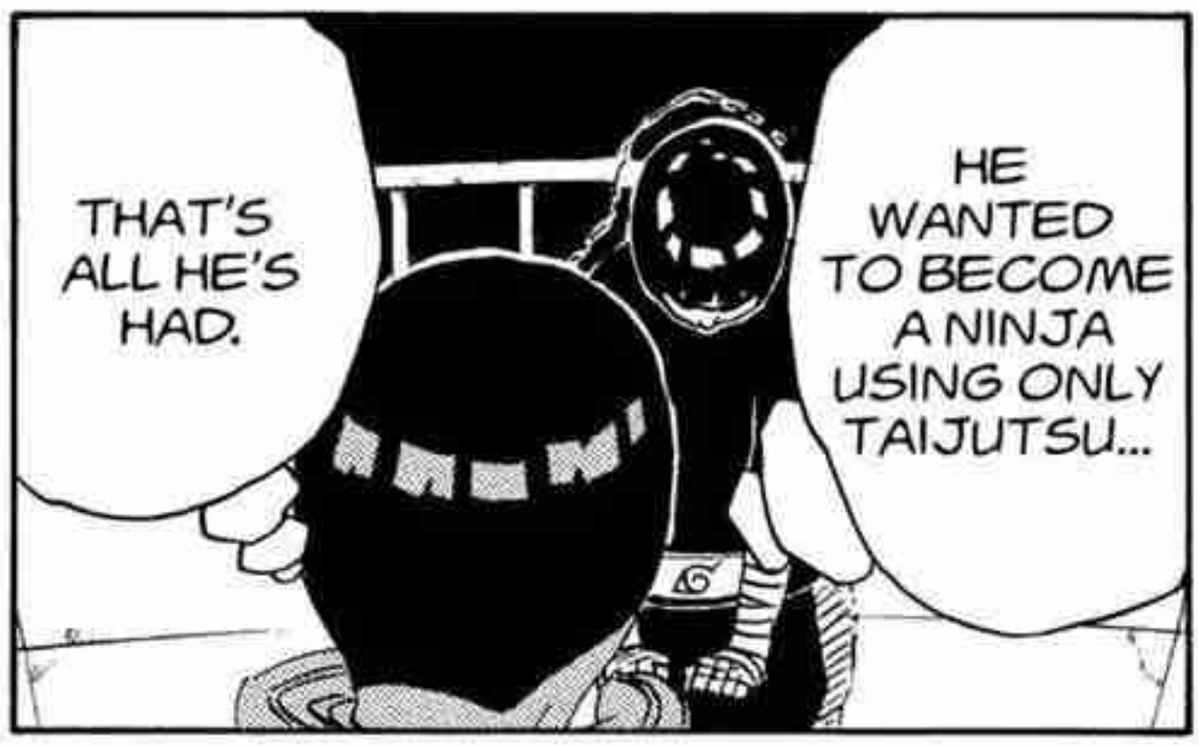
IT'S A FORBIDDEN TECHNIQUE THAT EATS AWAY THE USER'S BODY...
THE EIGHT INNER GATES...

WHAT AM I... SUPPOSED TO DO?

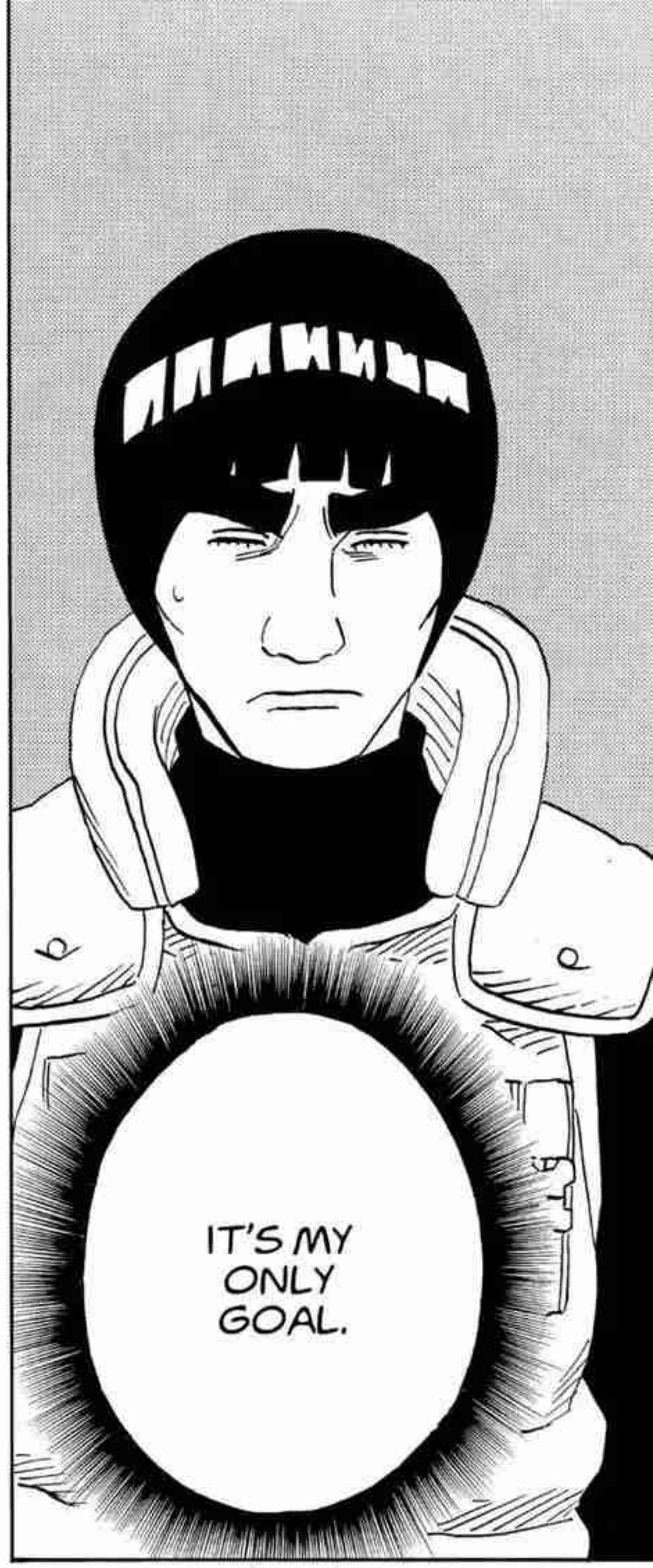
HELP ME LIVE MY DREAM...
I'M READY FOR IT! PLEASE TEACH ME!

TEACH IT TO ME!!

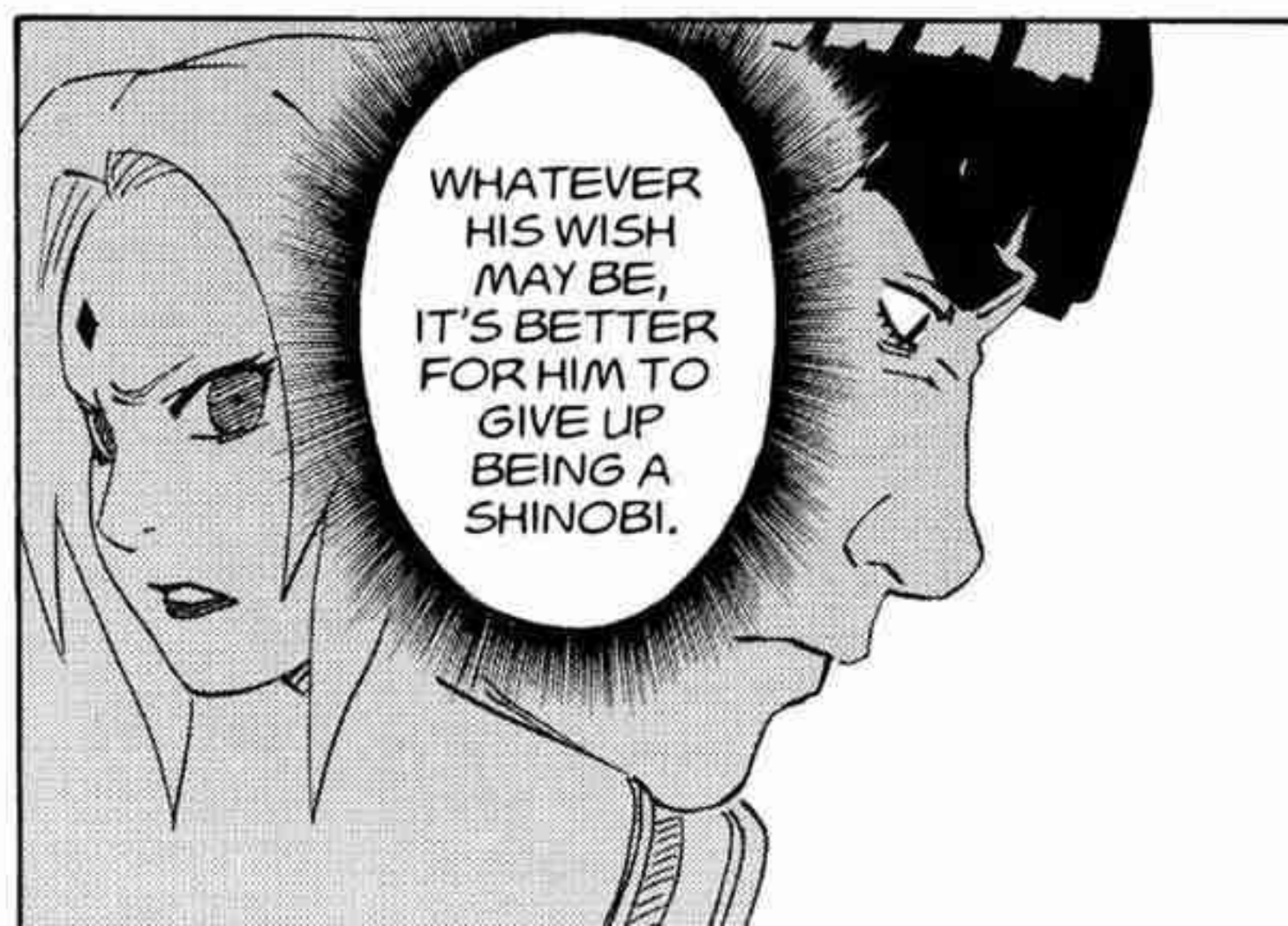

SNIFF...
SNIFF...


THAT'S ALL HE'S HAD.
HE WANTED TO BECOME A NINJA USING ONLY TAIJUTSU...

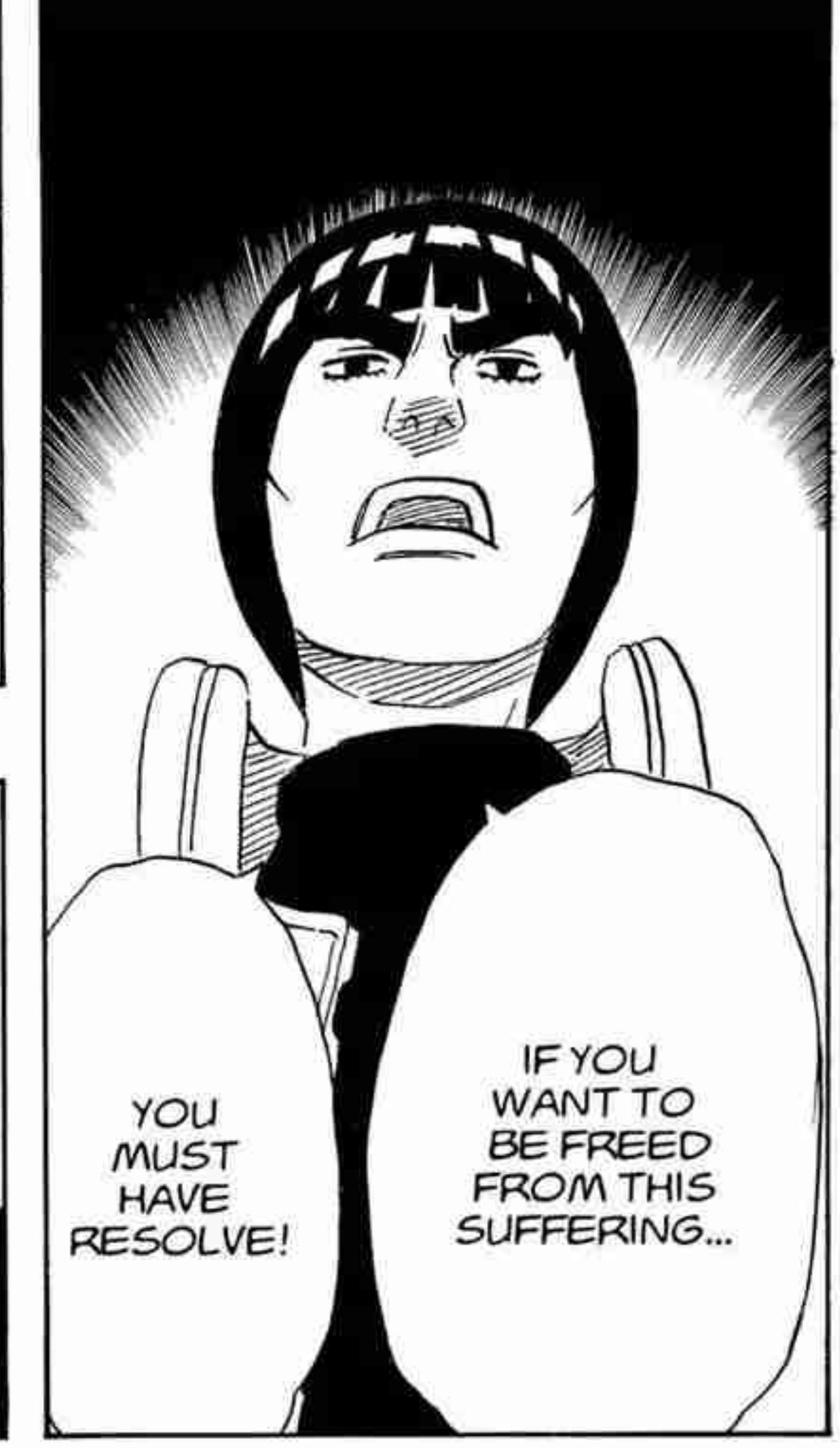
I KNOW IT HURTS... ALL YOUR HOPES, ALL YOUR DREAMS ARE SHATTERED NOW.


IT'S MY ONLY GOAL.

LEE...

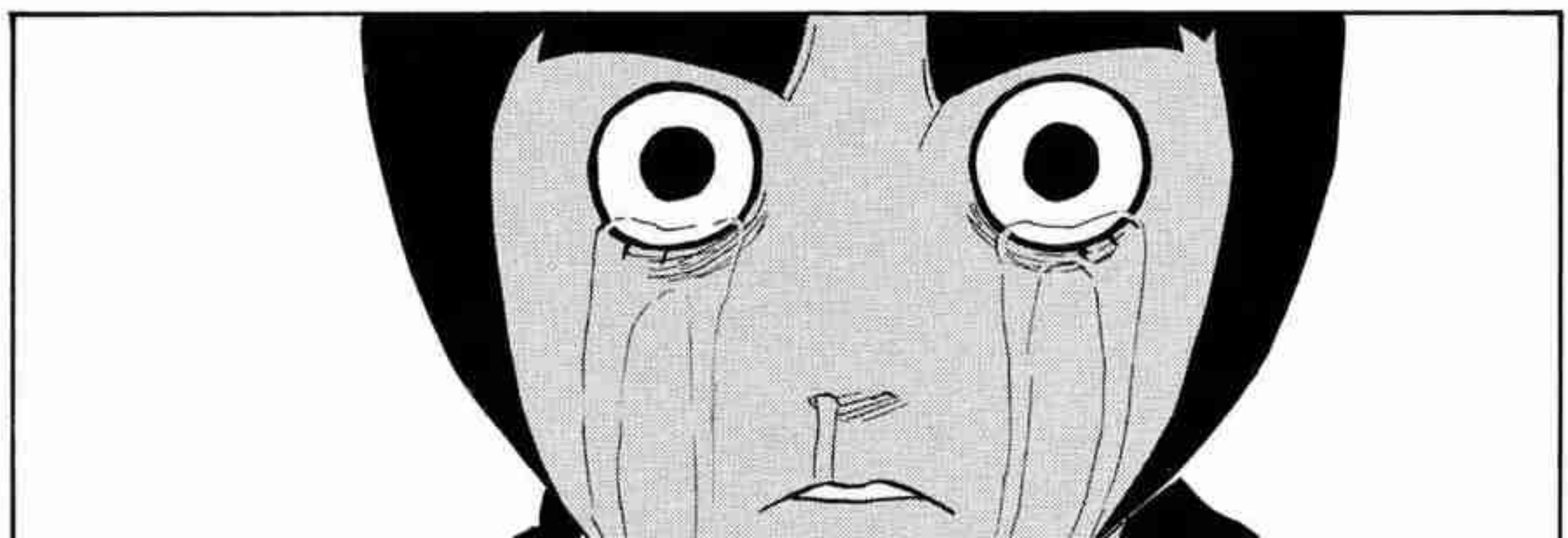

WHATEVER HIS WISH MAY BE, IT'S BETTER FOR HIM TO GIVE UP BEING A SHINOBI.

...


YOU MUST HAVE RESOLVE!
IF YOU WANT TO BE FREED FROM THIS SUFFERING...

DO YOU MEAN... THE RESOLVE ...
...TO GIVE UP ON MY DREAMS...?

YOU AND I ARE JUST FOOLS WHO CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... OUR NINJA WAY.
...IT'S OUR NINDO...
IF YOU LOSE YOUR DREAM, YOU WILL SUFFER MORE THAN YOU DO NOW...



GET THE OPERATION, LEE!

THAT DAY YOU SAID LUCK WAS A PART OF SKILL...

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT JUST A MINUTE AGO I WAS REMEMBERING THE TIME YOU AND MASTER KAKASHI HAD A ROSHAMBO BATTLE.

...

...!

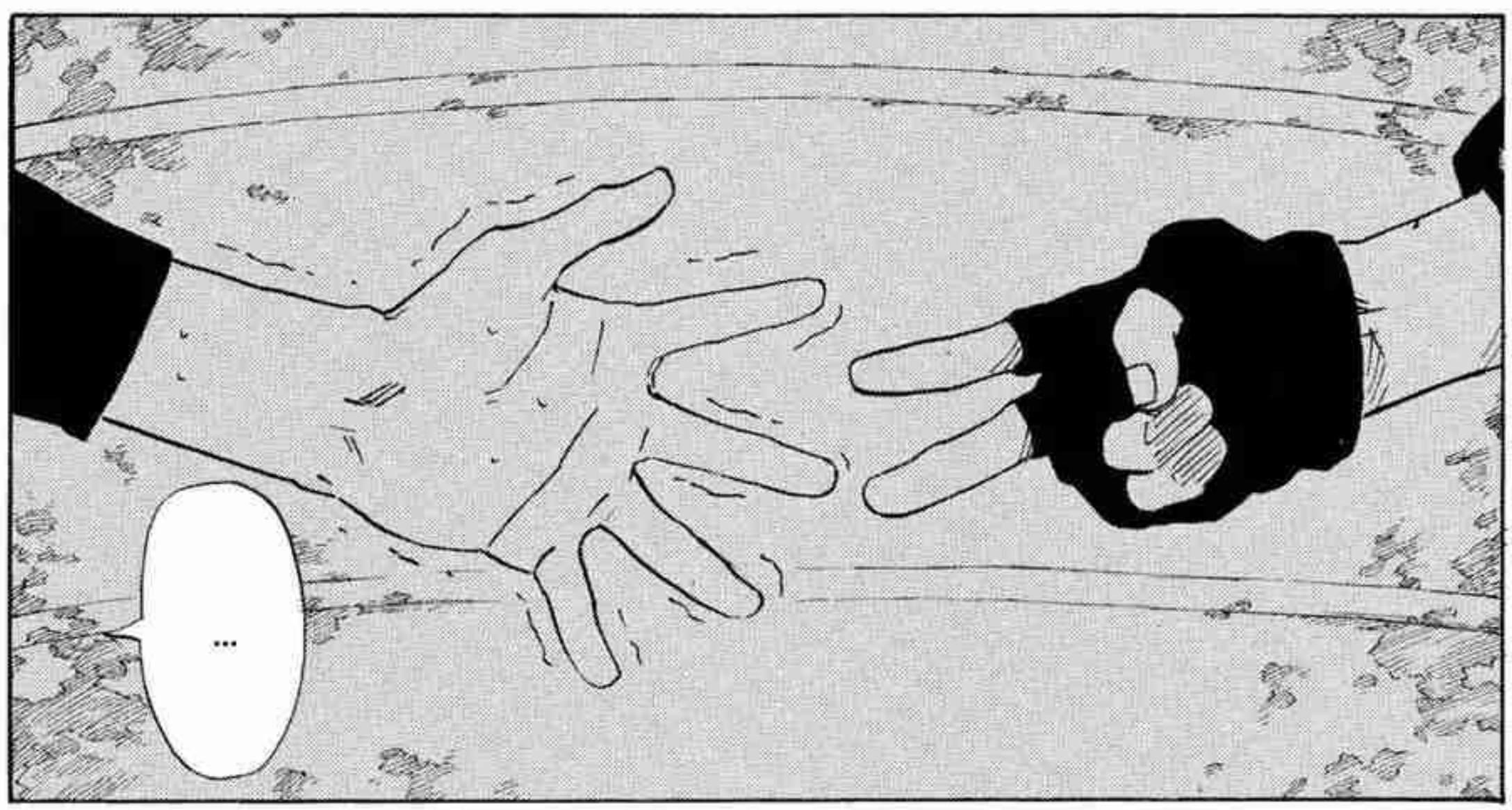
...THE OPERATION IS 50-50. EITHER I LIVE OR I DIE...

...

...WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, LEE...?
DO YOU REMEM-BER...

...

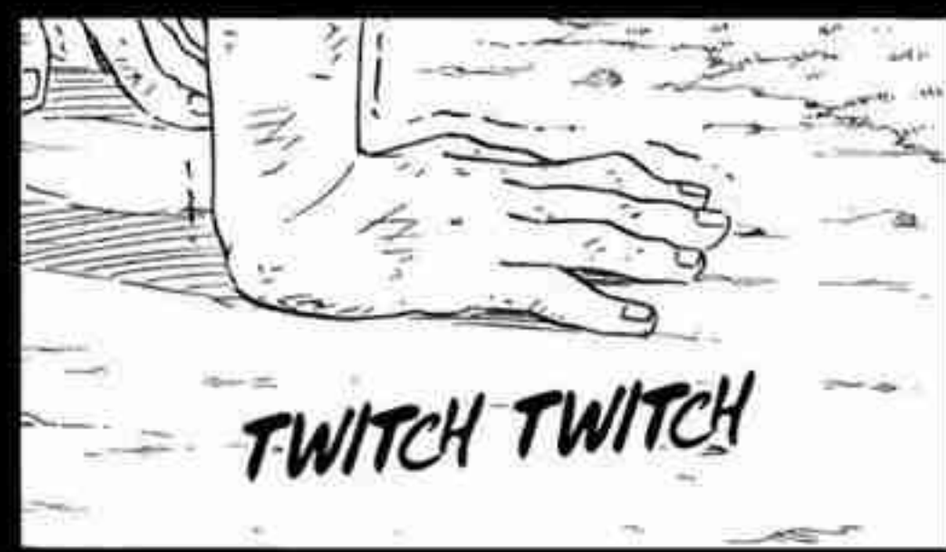
BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME AS ROSHAMBO...

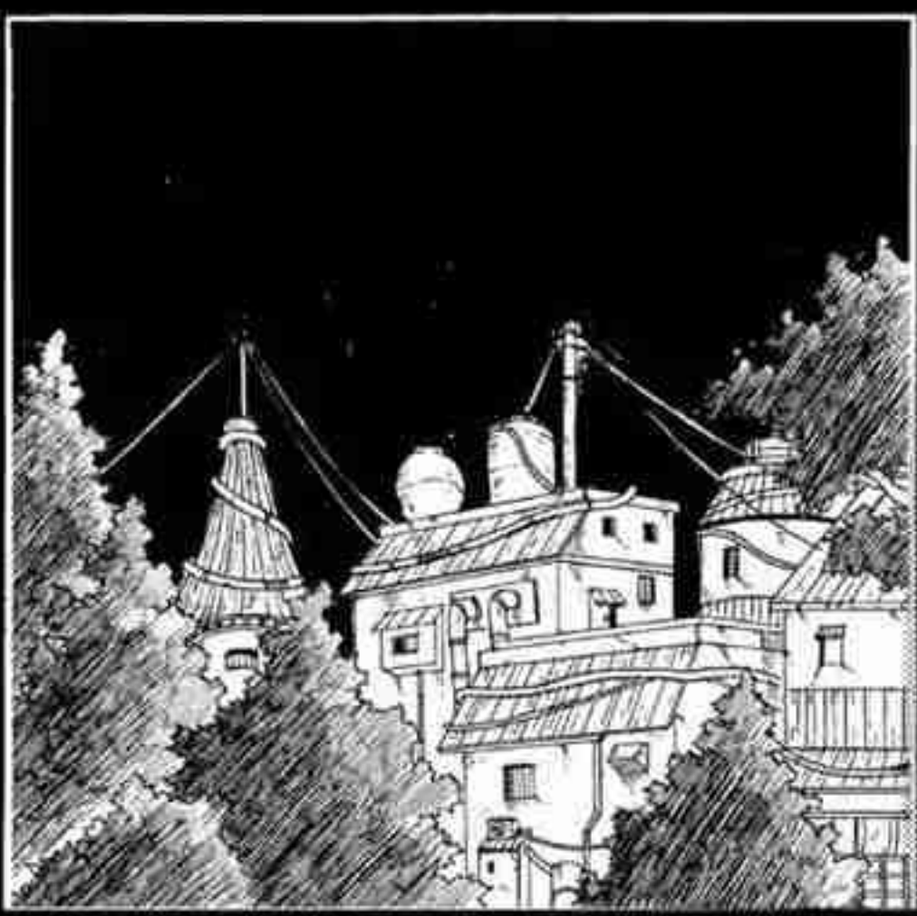

...

ARGH--!!

TEK TEK

THAT'S A PROMISE!!!
I'LL DO 500 LAPS AROUND KONOHA DOIN' A HANDSTAND!!
SWAP


TWITCH TWITCH



HE'S ACTING LIKE A CHILD...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... THIS IS SO STUPID...

!

THIS IS NOTHING...!
ARGH...

NOBODY, NOT EVEN MASTER KAKASHI, IS WATCHING YOU...
WHY...?
WHAT IS IT LEE?

THAT'S A PROMISE!!!
SHWAP
...

...YOU MUST KEEP IT EVEN IF IT MEANS YOU MUST RISK YOUR LIFE!
ONCE YOU MAKE A PROMISE...

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS MAKE UP RIDICULOUS RULES...

...BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING?

WHAT?

BUT! THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME!!

...WHAT IS...?

FINE! I SHALL TELL YOU!

YOU SURE DO NOTICE GOOD POINTS!!

HAAH! THANK YOU FOR ASKING, LEE...

EVERY SPLENDID NINJA HAS THEIR OWN SELF-RULE!!

SIMPLY PUT... THIS IS TRAINING TO BRING VICTORY!

LISTEN!
THE KEY TO THIS RULE IS TO CREATE A HURDLE YOU MUST OVERCOME TO SUCCESSFULLY TACKLE A NEW TASK.

?!

UH HUH, UH HUH...

SO YOU JUMP THE HURDLE TO MAKE IT EASIER TO ACHIEVE YOUR NEXT GOAL.
ONE, YOU'LL PROBABLY WIN YOUR NEXT ROSHAMBO BATTLE.
FOR EXAMPLE... INSTEAD OF THINKING YOU JUST HAVE TO DO 500 LAPS IF I LOSE AT ROSHAMBO...
THINK OF IT AS IF I DO 500 LAPS, I WILL DEFINITELY BEAT KAKASHI THE NEXT TIME.

YOU STILL GOT 500 LAPS OF TRAINING IN! IT'S THE ULTIMATE TWO-STEP PROCESS.
AND TWO, EVEN IF YOU DO LOSE BY SOME CHANCE...

I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU ON YOUR 500 LAPS! MY **SELF-RULE** IS...

ALL RIGHT! I JUST HAVE ONE LAST HURDLE TO OVER-COME...

THAT'S BRILLIANT!!

...

IF I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU...

...I'LL JUST WORK HARDER!

HEY NOW! DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, LEE!

I WILL BECOME A **SPLENDID NINJA!!**

I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU!

I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO TRAINING YOU!!
IF I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO TRAINING YOU, YOU WILL BECOME A FINE SHINOBI!!

IF YOU CAN'T STAY WITH ME TILL THE END...
ALL RIGHT! THEN I'LL ADD TO MY RULE TOO!!
...

SHWAP
THAT'S A PROMISE!!

...

YOU TAUGHT ME THE SELF RULE FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT NIGHT...
HEH... THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU'VE WORKED HARD. THE OPERATION WILL BE A SUCCESS. YOU HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD!!

IF, BY A ONE IN A TRILLION CHANCE, IT ENDS IN FAILURE... I'LL DIE WITH YOU!

FROM THE MOMENT I MET YOU, MY NINJA WAY HAS BEEN TO MAKE YOU A SPLENDID NINJA.

...THAT'S A PROMISE!!

SHWAP

TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* 21!